

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

Volume 11 Number 3131

AMMAN, THURSDAY-FRIDAY MARCH 27-28, 1986, RAJAB 16-17, 1406

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

League fails to agree on Gulf war

TUNIS (AP) — After unanimously condemning "American aggression against Libya," the Arab League Council of Ministers on Wednesday failed to agree on a tough, common position most of the ministers had hoped to take on the Iran-Iraq war. With Iran's allies Libya and Syria expressing strong reservations, the league passed a relatively weak resolution "firmly condemning Iranian military aggression" against Iraq and "reaffirming its total solidarity" with Baghdad. But the resolution fell far short of the call for practical measures against Iraq for which the Gulf states had pressed. The resolution contained no concrete proposals for either ending the six-year-old conflict or for giving more direct aid to Iraq. Kuwaiti diplomats told reporters they were bitter that strong Libyan and Syrian opposition had blocked any effort at providing more practical aid to Iraq (See story below).

King sends good wishes to Bangladesh, Malaysia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable of good wishes on Wednesday to Bangladesh President Mohammad Hossein Ershad, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day. The King wished President Ershad continuing good health and happiness and the people of Bangladesh further progress and prosperity. The King also sent a cable of congratulations to Malaysia's Al-Mustawak Al-Islam Sultan Iskandar Jahar on the occasion of the anniversary of the sultan's assumption of constitutional powers. In his cable, the King wished the Malaysian leader continuing good health and happiness and the people of Malaysia further progress and prosperity.

Palestinian student wounded in Israeli fire

JERUSALEM (R) — A Palestinian student was hit when Israeli troops fired shots during an anti-Israeli demonstration at Bethlehem University on the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, a university spokesman said. The Israeli sources said troops intervened when students hurled stones at passing Israeli cars on a nearby road. The demonstration, during which banned Palestinian flags were waved, was by about 300 students protesting against the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

Chad peace summit set for this weekend

BRAZZAVILLE (R) — Chadian President Hissene Habre and rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei will discuss how to end 20 years of civil war in Chad in a secluded Congolese town this weekend, informed Congolese sources said Wednesday. The meeting of Chad's current leader and the man he ousted in June 1982 in one of the many bloody episodes of the country's unending strife will be attended by Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Chairman Abdou Diouf, the sources added. Congolese government officials have declined comment on the talks, the first meeting between the two men in six years.

TASS denounces Pentagon report

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet news agency TASS said on Wednesday the Pentagon used disinformation, doctored facts and falsehoods in its latest report on Soviet military strength. In a report from Washington, TASS said the 1986 edition of the U.S. Defense Department's annual report "Soviet Military Power" was part of a smear campaign to divert attention from U.S. military preparations. The 156-page paperback book, issued on Tuesday, said Moscow had made major improvements in its strategic missile forces and in a broad range of conventional weapons over the past year.

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Gorbachev proposes superpower withdrawal from Mediterranean

U.S. keeps world guessing over its plans in Sirte; Libya calls for suicide attacks on American interests

Combined agency despatches

SOVIET LEADER Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday offered to withdraw the Soviet fleet from the Mediterranean if the United States pulled out its own warships.

In a speech reported by the official news agency TASS, he said Moscow was prepared to start talks on the issue at once.

A U.S. navy task force was still on manoeuvres in and near the Gulf of Sirte but the Reagan administration said no new clashes with Libyan forces had been reported.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes kept the world guessing on how long the American ships and aircraft would remain in the southern Mediterranean following their attacks against Libyan naval vessels and a missile site Monday and Tuesday.

Libya called for Arab suicide squads to strike American embassies and other interests "wherever they may be" after the U.S.-Libyan clashes.

open security and cooperation conference in Helsinki.

This could include interested countries from outside the region such as the United States, he said.

Mr. Gorbachev, who was speaking at a Kremlin dinner for visiting Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, fiercely attacked Washington over the U.S.-Libyan clashes.

He accused the United States of aggression and said its actions constituted a challenge to the world public and an encroachment on commonly recognised civilised relations.

Mr. Gorbachev said Moscow only had warships permanently in the Mediterranean because of the presence there of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, which was a threat to the Soviet Union and its allies.

Council members consulted on the matter privately for about an hour before reaching their decision and were to hold further consultations before opening the debate, officials said.

In Moscow, Mr. Gorbachev proposed that a regional Mediterranean conference should be held, similar to the 1975 Eur-

officials have been saying the three U.S. aircraft carrier battle groups could steam away from the Libyan coast as early as Thursday providing there were no more hostilities.

Spokesman Speakes said only that no decision had been made on whether to cut short the exercises, originally planned to end at midnight Mediterranean time April 1.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi declared Tuesday night that Libya was at war with the United States.

"We are at war. We are prepared to fight against the arrogant U.S. government around the world," he told reporters.

Speakes said the White House had not decided whether President Reagan should notify the U.S. Congress under the War Powers Act of the clashes that have occurred so far.

In the past two days the U.S. forces that crossed Col. Qadhafi's "line of death" across the mouth of the Gulf of Sirte have sunk three Libyan patrol boats and

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8 killed, scores injured in E. Beirut blasts

BEIRUT (Agencies) — At least eight people were killed and dozens wounded on Wednesday when a car rigged with dynamite exploded in a street crowded with mid-morning shoppers in east Beirut, according to dispatches by various news agencies.

In hills above the Lebanese capital, 10 people were killed and 45 injured when artillery duels erupted between rival militiamen and sent shells slamming across the city's green line battlefield Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, radio stations reported.

The car bomb set ablaze two apartment blocks and dozens of cars, hampering rescue workers who battled for two hours through clumps of shattered masonry to free trapped survivors.

The bomb, estimated by police at some 100-150 kilograms of dynamite, sliced the booby-trapped white Renault 5 in two, dug a crater one metre deep and blew out windows within a one kilometre radius, Reuters reported.

The blast set a five-storey building housing President Amin Gemayel's rightist Falange Party's Ashrafyeh office on fire, AP said.

Civil defence chief Elie Hnein told AP "dozens" of people were trapped in the upper floors by the flames.

Firefighters took over building opposite the burning apartment block to spray it with hoses as rescue teams brought survivors down on fire ladders into the narrow, smoke-filled street. A score of cars were destroyed in the blast.

One witness said he tried to raise the alarm when he saw smoke curling from the Renault parked outside the Falange Party office.

"Iran to knock on a neighbour's door, but the car exploded just then," said the man, who asked not to be identified.

Civil defence officials said at least eight charred bodies have been dragged from the rubble so far, but more casualties were believed to be still buried, they told AP.

The blast came two hours after a smaller explosion outside another office of the Falange Party in another suburb of east Beirut injured a mother and her child and four other people. The explosion was in the Fum Al Shabbak area.

Wednesday's blasts brought the number of people killed since January in attacks on Falange offices to 53.

Libya says most Arab states support Qadhafi

Combined agency despatches

LIBYA, HAVING secured an Arab League condemnation of "U.S. aggression" and expression of Arab solidarity with Libya, reported on Wednesday that a number of Arab leaders have pledged support for Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in his confrontation with the American Sixth Fleet in the Gulf of Sirte in the Mediterranean.

Arab diplomatic sources said in Tunis on Tuesday that a resolution condemning the U.S. and pledging support for Libya was passed unanimously on the second day of an Arab League foreign ministers' meeting.

Libyan delegation chief Omar Hamouda told reporters the resolution also called on the United States to withdraw its fleet from the area.

Arab League states called on the United Nations Security Council to discuss the "dangerous situation," Mr. Hamouda quoted the resolution as saying.

The condemnation by the 21-member Arab League came after the United States said its navy on Tuesday attacked Libyan patrol boats for the second day running and hit a missile site, but this time without Libya firing a shot.

The cabinet pledged Syria's "firm and full support" for Libya and called for "Arab solidarity against American threats."

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Gulf media deplore American action, page 2

U.S. attacks continue to draw world criticism

Combined agency despatches

THE U.S. attacks on Libyan targets on Monday and Tuesday drew continued criticism from world nations on Wednesday with the Soviet Union describing the American action as a "direct threat to world peace" and China accusing Washington of threatening Libya.

Eastern European states accused the United States of deliberate armed provocation against Libya and expressed fears the conflict could spread to the whole of the Mediterranean.

The press of Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Czechoslovakia unanimously condemned the firing of American missiles on Libyan patrol boats.

About 75 Arab students staged a noisy but peaceful demonstration outside the U.S. embassy in Prague.

The students were waving green flags and carrying banners in English and Czech proclaiming "Reagan is the greatest international terrorist" and other anti-American slogans. Some waved pictures of the Libyan leader, Muammar Qadhafi.

Vietnam also criticised the U.S. action, accusing Washington of carrying out a "deliberate act of armed provocation aimed at cre-

ating an excuse to commit military aggression against Libya."

The Vietnam News Agency (VNA) said Washington was "blindly pursuing a new military adventure against Libya, making the situation in the region extremely tense and explosive."

India denounced the U.S. military action against Libya as a serious threat to world peace and security in the region.

"Recent U.S. manoeuvres in the Gulf of Sirte and attacks on Libyan missile patrol boats as well as the missile battery in Libyan territory are a matter of grave concern," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

India is current chairman of the 101-nation Non-Aligned Movement.

It said the American attacks "pose a serious threat not only to the regional security but also to international peace and stability."

Pakistan called for restraint in the U.S.-Libyan dispute.

The official APP news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as appealing to "all concerned" to exercise restraint and

(Continued on page 5)

Shultz starts talks as Greece assails U.S., page 8



CROWN PRINCE VISITS BASE: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday attends a celebration held at the Prince Hassan Air Base to mark the Crown Prince's 39th birthday which coincides with the base's anniversary. The base commander and senior officers met with Prince Hassan upon his arrival at the base for the

celebration. Prince Hassan toured several sections of the base and inspected a display of various equipment used in the base. He also watched air exercises with live ammunition. Later he inaugurated a mosque at the base and watched sport exercises and he presented awards to the winning units.

Symposium reviews social and economic impacts of Gulf war

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — An international symposium on the 66-month-old Iran-Iraq war continued its deliberations on Wednesday with more than 20 speeches calling for world attention towards the socio-economic impacts of the dispute on both countries' development and population and urging regional and international peace initiatives to settle the continuing conflict.

The speakers, who represent various pan-Arab and global organisations and institutions associated with labour, education, law, economy and humanitarian issues, emphasised the importance of rallying world support for efforts towards a peaceful solution to halt the war as soon as possible, especially that 1986 is the U.N.-designated International Year of Peace.

The three-day conference, entitled "No-to-War, Yes-to-Peace," was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday. It is organised by the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development. It is attended by more than 150 delegates representing sovereign states and institutions as well as two parties from the Iranian opposition — the Paris-based National Council of Resistance (NCR) and the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK). The two Iranian delegations submitted two

working papers on Tuesday outlining their view on what should be the basis for a negotiated settlement between Iran and Iraq. Iraq is also attending the meeting.

Wednesday's discussions were based on a working paper presented by the ALO on Tuesday regarding the legal, political and socio-economic dimensions of the war. According to the paper, the war has damaged the economic infrastructure of both countries and has weakened regional cooperation. The utilisation of a major part of the resources of both countries for war purposes has also disrupted the development process in both states, the ALO paper said.

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians cool towards new Israeli withdrawal proposal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian leaders in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip on Wednesday gave a cool welcome to draft proposals by the Israeli Labour Party to evacuate most of the Israeli-occupied territories in return for peace.

The proposals include complete Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and evacuation of most of the West Bank. They will be voted on by a party convention next month.

The least critical Arab reaction came from former Gaza Mayor Rashad Shawa. He said the half million inhabitants of the Gaza Strip would welcome Israeli withdrawal if it was a first step to total evacuation of the West Bank as well.

The proposals, if adopted as expected, will become Labour policy in case of new Israeli elections. The party today governs with the right-wing Likud bloc, which strongly opposes relinquishing the territories.

West Bank leaders expressed suspicion of the proposals, saying

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Derwinski's remarks do not imply change in policy — U.S.

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A statement by a senior State Department official calling on Arab states to absorb the Palestinian refugees did not reflect any change in U.S. policy, the department said Tuesday.

The department's clarification, which also reassured the U.S. stand that the Palestinian question was more than a question of refugees, came in a written answer to a question submitted by reporters. Following is the question and answer.

Question: Last Friday, the 14th of this month, the counsellor of the State Department, Mr. Edward Derwinski, speaking at the Foreign Press Centre about the refugees in the world, uttered some statement which stirred a lot of concern in the Arab World that the Palestinian refugees would be better served if they were absorbed in many of the countries in which they reside. Was Mr. Derwinski speaking on his own, on behalf of the United States government, on behalf of Mr. Shultz, or what is the position about such statement?

Answer: The counsellor made clear that his remarks did not constitute a new American policy. Having recently toured the refugee camps, Counsellor Derwinski spoke personally of the tragedy for those who have been refugees for a lifetime. He made clear that he was not addressing "the political side" of their situation in the UNRWA refugee camps, but said he found the lack of alternative to their living indefinitely in the camps "very personally upsetting."

As President Reagan and others have noted, the Palestinian problem is more than a question of refugees.

Parliament challenges its abolition by Aquino

MANILA (R) — Philippine members of parliament, both friends and foes of President Corason Aquino, closed ranks on Wednesday to denounce her abolition of the National Assembly as a step towards dictatorship.

The pro-Marcos New Society Movement (KBL) and Mrs. Aquino's parliamentary supporters met in an effort to shape a united front.

Neither the KBL — fragmented since the flight into exile of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos — nor her allies seemed clear how to challenge Tuesday's proclamation or whether they could do anything jointly.

But analysts said their protest could lead to a serious political and constitutional crisis for Mrs. Aquino's month-old government, which is still riding on a crest of her personal popularity.

With her proclamation, Mrs. Aquino announced that a special commission would draft a new constitution for approval in a referendum and said she hoped ele-

ctions under the new charter could be held within a year.

At separate press conferences, leaders of the KBL and the pro-Aquino UNIDO coalition said they might defy her and meet next month as scheduled last December when the National Assembly adjourned for the February presidential election.

Marcos fled on Feb. 25 after a civilian-backed military rebellion sided with Mrs. Aquino in declaring his election victory a fraud.

The KBL said her proclamation was a "magna carta of enslavement... an act of irresponsible hypocrisy which constitutes a hypocritical masquerade patently intended to sugar-coat the ulterior motive to establish a dictatorship."

KBL spokesman Fernando Veloso said they did not challenge Mrs. Aquino's right to the presidency "by virtue of events and because Marcos has defuncted."

Manila launches efforts to return Marcos millions from Switzerland, page 7

Mitterrand curbs Chirac's use of decrees

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand on Wednesday forced the government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to modify its plans to push through economic measures by decree, saying he would veto any major change in labour legislation unless it was properly approved by parliament.

The first full meeting of Mr. Chirac's cabinet, chaired under the constitution by the head of state, ended with a surprise statement from Mr. Mitterrand saying he would only agree to a limited use of decrees by the new government.

Mr. Chirac said when he was appointed last week that his government intended using the decree mechanism for two priority measures — an economic recovery package and a return to the majority voting system for National Assembly elections.

To rule by decree "the government has to pass an enabling bill through parliament outlining the areas affected."

French hostages may be freed soon, mediator says

BEIRUT (R) — French hostages held in Lebanon may be released within the next few days, a Syrian businessman trying to secure their release was reported Wednesday as saying.

"The release of the hostages is expected very soon. It might be within the next few days," Omran Adham, who carried a message from France on the hostages to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad earlier this month, told Beirut's daily As-Safir.

As-Safir interviewed Mr. Adham in the French capital after he met President Francois Mitterrand Tuesday.

France intensified its efforts to secure the release of French hostages after the Islamic Jihad (holy war) group said on March 5 it had killed Arab researcher Michel Serfat, one of four hostages it seized last year.

A four-man French television team was also kidnapped in Beirut earlier this month, and another group, the previously unknown "Revolutionary Justice Organisation," claimed responsibility saying it was a warning to France to end all involvement in Lebanon.

"Although current negotiations are taking place with different groups, they include all the French hostages, whether diplomats or journalists," As-Safir quoted Mr. Adham as saying.

Islamic Jihad has demanded an end to French backing for Bag-

hdad in Iraq's war with Iran and the release of five Middle Easterners imprisoned in Paris for attempting to kill former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar in 1980.

A Lebanese-born Frenchwoman, six Americans, an Italian, a Briton and a South Korean are still missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe Tuesday urged the release of British journalist Alec Collett kidnapped in Beirut a year ago while on assignment for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees.

Paris-based Adham said the director of political affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Mohammad Hussain Lawasani, had discussed the issue of the French hostages while in Lebanon.

The Iranian embassy here said Tuesday Mr. Lawasani met officials from the Shi'ite Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) before he left for Damascus.

Mr. Adham said Mr. Lawasani discussed the "possibility of accepting Syrian guarantees for the French hostages."

As-Safir said he declined to spe-

cify what the French promises were, but said they might include releasing the group which attempted to kill Mr. Bakhtiar.

Adham asserted however that all French promises would be carried out, As-Safir added.

"Syria has enough weight in the area and enough friendships to reach a solution satisfactory to everybody," he said.

Syria, with influence over some of Lebanon's armed factions has in the past mediated in the French hostage crisis.

Meanwhile the daughter of kidnapped British journalist Alec Collett appealed for his release Tuesday night after an anonymous caller apparently representing his captors said the 64-year-old diabetic was dangerously ill.

In a message videotaped in Britain and broadcast on Lebanese television, Collett's daughter, Susan Grant, said: "Whoever sees this film... we want to know what it is you want. Is there anything we can do this end?"

"Please get in touch with (British Ambassador to Lebanon) John Gray as soon as possible," said Ms. Grant. "Dad... we look forward to having you back and we all love you. Take care."

The broadcast, on the first anniversary of Collett's kidnapping, appeared shortly after an anonymous telephone caller told an international news agency in Beirut that the journalist had an "acute kidney ailment and his life

is in great danger."

The caller, who said he spoke for the "Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims," demanded that Britain send Lebanon medical supplies to treat kidney disease.

He said Collett would be treated when equipment had been distributed to hospitals in South Lebanon.

The Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims said it would exchange him for Arab prisoners in British jails.

Tuesday night's telephoned statement, which said Britain had been in contact with the group, blamed London for the failure of efforts to secure Collett's release.

"A direct contact was arranged... but the Foreign Office apologised at the last minute," it said, adding that Mustafa Saad, Sunni Muslim leader of the southern city of Sidon, had passed the group's demands to Britain's ambassador in Beirut.

But Ambassador Gray said on Monday he had little idea of what the shadowy organisation wanted, and in London Tuesday the Foreign Office said Britain had not been contacted by Collett's captors about the demands.

The group's statement came after British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe appealed to Collett's captors "to come forward now and allow this sad case to be brought to a conclusion."

Gulf media deplore American aggression

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Government-guided Arab newspapers along the Gulf on Wednesday denounced "U.S. provocation" of Libya, but one Kuwaiti paper castigated Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi for not heeding the Arab common defence charter.

"Despite our strong objection to the Libyan attitude toward Iraq, we stand firm on Libya's side against these American provocations," Kuwait's Al Rai Al Aam said editorially. "We won't stop at denouncing the aggression by the American navy and warplanes. We urge the Arab World to live up to the historic responsibility... because the Libyan people are just as Arab as the peoples of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and the Gulf."

It accused Col. Qadhafi of being the "first to deal the Arab common defence charter a death blow by publicly siding with Iran against Iraq."

Libya and Syria support Iraq in its five-year-old war with Iraq. Qadhafi has placed a large part of Libya's potentials at the disposal of the Iranian war machine which has for many years been committing aggression on an Arab country (Iraq), the paper said.

All other Kuwaiti newspapers refrained from editorial comment on the Libya-U.S. conflict.

In the United Arab Emirates, the papers were unanimous in calling on the Arab powers to side with Libya against the United States. They insisted that American support for the arch-enemy of the Arabs, Israel, should not be forgotten.

The government-owned newspaper Al Itihad expressed "surprise at this silence in the Arab capitals regarding the aggression on Libya."

"Have we forgotten the scars caused by American and Israeli saboteurs in the Arab body?" it asked, admonishing the Arabs to stand united on Libya's side.

Other papers also urged a united Arab front against the United States.

Most Arab governments along the oil-rich region meanwhile withheld public comment. But North Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh telephoned Col. Qadhafi later Tuesday and affirmed his country's support for Libya against the "hostile aggressions that the American Sixth Fleet committed on Libyan territory."

AIPAC not to block Saudi arms deal

By John Goshko

WASHINGTON — The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the U.S. principal pro-Israel lobby, has told the administration that it will not actively oppose President Reagan's proposed \$354 million sale of advanced missiles to Saudi Arabia, AIPAC officials have said.

AIPAC's decision to take a "hands-off" position is expected to boost considerably the administration's campaign to counter efforts in Congress to block the

sale. The AIPAC stance follows the lead of the Israeli government, which had indicated it wants to avoid friction with the administration over an arms package that Israel does not consider a threat to its security.

In explaining the decision, AIPAC sources said they were motivated by a desire not to disturb good relations between Israel and the administration and by the fact that the arms package — consisting of Sidewinder air-to-air, Harpoon air-to-sea and Stinger

ground-to-air missiles — contains no weapons that the Saudis do not have.

The sources noted the administration has promised not to attempt other arms sales — containing such items as F-15 jet fighters, M-1 tanks and helicopter gunships — to Saudi Arabia for at least a year. These arms are seen as a potentially greater threat by Israel, and sources said AIPAC decided to conserve political capital for a possible fight over a more comprehensive Saudi arms package — Washington Post.

NATO urges caution over U.S.-Libyan clashes

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The United States' NATO allies counseled caution Wednesday after hearing a report on U.S.-Libyan clashes in the Mediterranean and did not issue any statement supporting Washington.

At a regular meeting of the NATO Council of Ambassadors, several allies, most vociferously Italy, expressed concern at the heightened tension in the Mediterranean and urged that further incidents be avoided, diplomats quoted by Reuters said.

The U.S. Sixth Fleet, cruising around the mouth of the Gulf of Sirte, sank four Libyan patrol craft and bombed a missile site on the Libyan mainland after its warplanes came under fire from Libyan missiles on Monday.

A NATO spokesman said the U.S. was keeping the alliance informed of developments and the allies were following the situation very closely.

Wednesday's meeting issued no declaration of support for the American action.

The diplomats said that while the allies supported the U.S. legal position that Libya had no right to claim the Gulf of Sirte as its territorial waters, opinions differed on the appropriateness of the American show of force in the area.

Italian sources said Ambassador Francesco Paolo Fulci had repeated a declaration of concern made by Prime Minister Bettino Craxi in Rome Tuesday.

Diplomats said concern was strongest among the Mediterranean allies, who could face possible retaliation by way of Libyan-sponsored attacks.

Greece has said it regards Libya as a friend and will not allow U.S. bases there to be used for action against Tripoli.

Diplomats said Britain and West Germany affirmed their governments' publicly-declared support for the U.S. action in the Gulf of Sirte at Wednesday's meeting.

Belgium, which has represented U.S. interests in Libya since Washington severed ties in 1981, appeared to distance itself from the American show of force by declaring in a statement Wednesday that such disputes "should imperatively be dealt with by peaceful means."

There was considerable confusion over whether the Libya missile firing constituted an attack within the North Atlantic Treaty zone, which includes the Mediterranean Sea.

U.S. officials said they were not sure whether the incident took place within the NATO area but there was no plan to invoke the treaty to seek allied support.

In Washington the war powers act, designed to curb the authority of presidents to commit troops abroad, does not stop President Ronald Reagan from ordering bombardment of Libyan boats and installations.

"War powers do not come into play here," White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan said Tuesday. "This is not something new. We answered fire with fire."

If the act does apply, Congress must be notified within 48 hours of the onset of hostilities, which White House spokesman Larry Speakes said would presumably mean by Wednesday, since the firing began Monday.

The chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Representative Dante B. Fascell, said he urged the White House to file such a report because "it will help matters considerably to say the law has been complied with."

The 1973 act, prompted by congressional discontent over the way U.S. troops were used during the Vietnam War, requires the president to notify Congress within 48 hours after American forces are put into a situation where they may become engaged in hostilities.

It also requires those forces to be withdrawn within 60 days, subject to a 30-day extension, if Con-

gress doesn't declare war.

The reporting provisions were called into play in President Gerald Ford's report on the Kampuchean seizure of the unarmed U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez, President Jimmy Carter's report on the abortive attempt to rescue the U.S. hostages in Iran and two reports by Mr. Reagan on the dispatch of U.S. Marines to Lebanon.

Presidents have consistently complained, however, that the act encroaches on the president's constitutional authority as commander in chief of the armed forces.

President Richard Nixon, vetoed it, saying it usurped "authorities which the president has properly exercised under the constitution for almost 200 years." The act was passed over Nixon's veto.

Mr. Reagan resisted efforts to apply the 60-day limit to his deployment of Marines in Lebanon. But in September 1983, while insisting his authority as commander in chief was not affected, he agreed to a resolution invoking the war powers act to extend the Marines' stay for 18 months and require congressional approval for any increase in their number.

Meanwhile a majority of Americans believe the U.S. attacks on Libya will result in increased attacks against U.S. citizens, according to a poll published Wednesday.

The poll, reported in USA Wednesday, found that more than 76 per cent of those questioned saw a potential for increased attacks following the confrontations between Libyan and American forces in the Gulf of Sirte.

The poll also found that 67 per cent supported U.S. military retaliation, although Libyan missiles failed to hit American planes. Sixty-four per cent said the Libyan incident increases the chance of war in the Middle East, but the respondents were split over whether the incident increases the chances of war with the Soviet Union.

GCC states consider buying AWACS aircraft

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia's Gulf allies are considering buying radar-alert aircraft like the U.S.-made Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) planes used by the desert kingdom, the Kuwait News Agency KUNA said Wednesday.

Each country in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) would buy its own aircraft but coordinate surveillance operations, it said, quoting ranking Gulf military sources.

The GCC — grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — set up a joint force last year to respond quickly to any outside attack.

The force, named Peninsular Shield and based in the north east

Saudi town of Hafr Al Batin, was put on standby after Iran's offensive last month into southern Iraq took its troops to within sight of Kuwait's borders.

Washington leased a handful of American-crewed AWACS to the Saudis in the early stages of the Iran-Iraq war — now in its sixth year — pending deliveries of their own purchases, scheduled to start this summer.

KUNA did not say whether officers being studied by the GCC states, which have become some of the world's largest buyers of arms.

Meanwhile Saudi Arabian Deputy Defence Minister Prince Abdul Rahman Ibn Abdul Aziz was quoted Wednesday as saying that the kingdom was still studying the \$354-million missile deal.

Sudanese rebels may fight new government

KHARTOUM (R) — Rebels in southern Sudan will fight any new Khartoum government elected next month unless it is willing to make radical changes, rebel leader Col. John Garang was quoted Wednesday as saying.

"If it's an unjust government and is not committed to creating a new Sudan, then we will fight it," he told the state-owned newspaper Al Sahaba in an interview.

In previous statements, Col. Garang has used the term "a new Sudan" to mean a system redressing the imbalance between the Arab and Islamic centre of the country and the remote non-Arab regions.

The rebel leader gave the interview in Addis Ababa during peace talks in Ethiopia between

his Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) and a 26-man delegation of politicians from Khartoum.

The Addis Ababa talks ended Tuesday with the politicians from the National Alliance for Salvation (NAS) accepting many of the SPLM's peace conditions.

They failed, however, to agree on arrangements for an early ceasefire or on terms for rebel participation in a future government.

Col. Garang, whose guerrilla force has been fighting government troops in the south since May 1983, said the ruling generals in Khartoum, who he accused of excluding the rebels from all decision making, were the obstacle to peace.

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17:15 Children programmes
17:45 George
18:10 Paul Daniel Show
18:50 Local programme on the occasion of the International Theatre Day
20:00 News in Arabic
21:00 Tomorrow's programme
22:00 Arabic Film
23:00 News Summary in Arabic
23:10 Film Continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Pico outre mer
19:00 News in French
19:15 Bergeval et fils
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Documentary: How Death Came to Earth
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Mind Your Language
21:00 Magazine Zero One
21:10 Return to Eden
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature Film: Demon and the Mummy

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW

Tel. 77111-14

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
09:30 Pop Session
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Pop Session Contd.
11:00 News Summary
11:30 Pop Session
12:00 News Bulletin
12:30 News Summary
13:00 News Bulletin
13:30 News Summary
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 News Summary
15:00 News Bulletin
15:30 News Summary
16:00 News Bulletin
16:30 News Summary
17:00 News Bulletin
17:30 News Summary
18:00 News Bulletin
18:30 News Summary

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME ONE

10:00 Religious Programme
11:00 Cartoons
11:30 Friday Prayers and Religious programme
13:00 Documentary
13:30 Sports
14:00 Robot
14:30 Viewers' Choice (Arabic)
15:00 Arabic Film
15:30 News in Arabic
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Tomorrow's Programme
17:00 Cinema '86
17:30 News in Arabic

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* A French exhibition on film directing at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 27)

* An art exhibition by Dr. Mahmoud Sadeq at the Jordan National Gallery (until March 30)

* French exhibition "M.D. portrait de Femme" at the French Cultural Centre (until March 27)

* A handicraft exhibition by the Soviet Republic of Belarussia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 30)

* An exhibition with originals about the work of the German Artist Christian Schud at the Goethe Institute (until April 3)

* An art exhibition by Mohammad Abu Zuhair at the Housing Complex Gallery

* An exhibition on French Satellite at the French Cultural Centre (until March 27)

CINEMA

"Le Camion" at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.

FEATURE FILM

"Tootsie" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

PLAY

An Arabic play for children entitled: "Ahu Al Fawanees Fee Ka' Al Sikak" Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and Friday at 5:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267

American Centre Tel. 644371

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubdhi, Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Haddad, Tel. 6057

Church of the Assumption (Greek Orthodox) Abdal, Tel. 623541

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 678906

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafiah, Tel. 711331

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafiah, Tel. 715261

St. Raphael Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafiah, Tel. 717151

Armenian International Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiah, Tel. 677534

Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811295

Rainbow Congregation (International, Interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman, Tel. 606974

PRAYER TIMES

06:07 Fay
07:31 (Sunrise) Dula
11:42 Dhur
15:12 Asr
17:54 Maghreb
19:16 Isha

CHURCHES

American Centre Library 641520

British Council 636147-8

French Cultural Centre 637009

Goethe Institute 641993

Tourist Cultural Centre 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre 634049

Soviet Cultural Centre 639777

Haya Arts Centre 665195

Husseini Youth City 667181

Y.W.C.A. 641793

Y.W.M.C.A. 642251

Armenian Municipal Library 636111

University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 15th centuries).

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubdhi, Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Haddad, Tel. 6057

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 33200-4, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:35 Kuwait (RJ)
09:40 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45 Abu Agaba (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
13:45 Kuwait (RJ)
14:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
14:35 Muscat, Dubai, Bahrain, Larnaca (GF)
16:15 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA)
16:30 Larnaca (RJ)
17:15 Baghdad (IA)
17:30 London, Cairo (RJ)
17:30 London, Beirut (RJ)
17:55 Athens (RJ)
18:00 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KLM)
21:15 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
23:20 Cairo (MS)
00:25 Baghdad (RJ)
00:35 London, Baghdad (BA)

DEPARTURES

06:30 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:45 Damascus, Athens (OA)
07:30 Agaba (RJ)
07:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:00 Beirut (ME)
08:30 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:00 Athens (RJ)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:15 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Riyadh, Doha (SV)
13:00 Larnaca (RJ)
13:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:00 Kuwait (RJ)
15:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
15:45 Bahrain (GF)
16:30 Baghdad (IA)
18:30 Baghdad (IA)
19:30 Kuwait (RJ)
20:30 Damascus (RJ)

WEATHER

It will be fair. Light and variable winds will become southeasterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aquaba port:

— Hual Trapper

Arzin Kavar and Sons Company, Tel: 622324-9 at your service.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair. Light and variable winds will become southeasterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Agaba 26.3, Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Agaba 24 per cent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kayed meets crime prevention official

AMMAN (J.T.) — Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed Wednesday met in his office with Dr. Idris Al Dahak, secretary general of the Arab Organisation for Social Defence Against Crime (AOSDAC). They discussed cooperation between the organisation and the Ministry of Interior in ways to stem crime in the Arab World. Dr. Dahak is taking part in a conference on ending the Gulf war. The AOSDAC, founded in 1965, carries out research on the reasons behind and prevention of crime and the treatment of criminals.

Hussaini visits earth stations

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Communications Muhieddin Al Hussaini Wednesday visited the earth stations at Baqa'a where he inspected the various sections, the Arabast station and the international satellite network (Intelsat). He was briefed on the satellite operations and services by engineer Samir Al Dajani, who is director of satellite operations.

Assad receives Hungarian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Nasseriddin Al Assad Monday received Hungarian Ambassador in Amman Zoltan Szephelyi. During the meeting they discussed ways of bolstering cooperation between the two countries in the higher education field and also reviewed the bilateral agreement signed between the two countries dealing with Jordanian students in Hungary.

Jordan marks world theatre day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will Thursday celebrate International Theatre Day. On this occasion the Department of Culture and Arts, in cooperation with the league of Jordanian artists, has prepared a programme of events including a number of lectures and plays. Among the activities to mark the day will be a seminar on Jordanian theatre to be held Saturday afternoon at the Osama Al Mashini theatre in Jabal Lweibdeh. Poet Abdul Rahim Omar and Dr. Sameer Qatani will take part in this seminar.

Amman hotel chosen as best for businessmen

AMMAN (J.T.) — Famous travel writer William Davis has recently published a well reviewed guide entitled "The World's Best Business Hotels." Out of the hundreds of fine hotels listed in this interesting new guide, Mr. Davis selected the 50 best hotels catering for business traveller's needs worldwide. This selection listed the Amman Marriott hotel together with 50 of the world's other outstanding and renowned names such as the Plaza Athenee in Paris; the Beverly Wilshire in Los Angeles; the Shangri-La in Singapore; Mandarin in Hong Kong; Imperial in Tokyo and many others. Mr. Davis was also quoted as saying: "We have concentrated on hotels which we consider to be the most suitable for business travellers. We have not attempted to list them in order of rank; they are all outstanding."

UNRWA director meets refugee notables

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) affairs in Jordan Per Olof Hallqvist Wednesday met with 16 refugee notables from Zarqa and Kusaifeh towns and from Marka (Hittin), Zarqa and Sukheh refugee camps during which information and views on the operation and funding of the agency were exchanged, according to a UNRWA release. Mr. Hallqvist told the refugee notables that the agency is fairly confident that it can go through 1986 without having to resort to service cuts, the release added.

Gorbachev proposes withdrawal

(Continued from page 1)

...damaged another and twice have shot at a Soviet-supplied missile site at the coastal town of Sirte, in retaliation against Libyan missile fire on Monday.

The U.S. Defence Department said there had been no Libyan fire since the initial volley of a dozen missiles that the U.S. says sparked the American attacks.

The U.S. says its fleet was sent to the gulf to emphasise its determination to operate in "international waters" despite Libya's claim to sovereignty over Sirte.

A U.S. State Department spokesman said American embassies around the world had been put on alert against attacks which diplomats say could be a more effective form of Libyan retaliation than direct action against the fleet.

Libyan Radio said Wednesday "Oh heroes of our Arab Nation, et your missiles and suicide cells pursue American terrorist embassies and interests wherever they may be."

American embassies, "interests and companies of terror" were trying on the Arab masses, comparing against them and plundering their wealth, it said.

The radio said the U.S. "terrorist" administration was "brazenly challenging" the Arab Nation with its warships and aircraft.

But America did not inspire fear, the radio said.

It recalled the "lesson of Lebanon," and said the U.S. military "fled in shame" as a result of heroic martyrdom-seeking operations "by the sons of the Arab people — a reference to a series of devastating bombings of U.S. installations in Lebanon in the past few years.

"We shall be lying in wait for the American power mania as we have always been," the commentary said.

"Our nation has never knelt before American arrogance."

On the diplomatic front, Col. Adhafi received messages of support from Arab and African leaders and the Foreign Ministry summoned ambassadors to tell them Libya would confront U.S. aggression "with all its means."

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) expressed support for Libya and urged Washington to avoid "a deliberate show of strength."



ARMY CHIEFS MEET: Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibo Shaker receives Wednesday the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff of the Canadian Forces Nigel Brodeur (second right) who arrived in Amman from Damascus Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleh, Canadian Ambassador in Amman Gary Harman and the Canadian military attache in Amman.

Arab union, RSS sign cooperation protocol

AMMAN (Petra) — The Baghdad-based Arab Union of Scientific Research Councils (AUSRC) and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Wednesday signed a protocol on scientific and technological cooperation and for the implementation of four research projects in electronic engineering, construction and renewable energy.

One of the projects concerns the development of an electronic system to control traffic lights, the designs for which were prepared at the RSS. The developed system is needed in both Jordan and Iraq due to heavy traffic in the cities of the two countries and to help safeguard public safety, an RSS spokesman said.

The two sides will also cooperate to produce an engineering handbook containing designs and instructions on building and construction with the purpose of giving structures further stability in minor earthquakes. The RSS spokesman said the project will help raise the standard of the construction industry in the two countries and will also benefit all Arab engineering offices. The two sides will also issue a guidebook with instructions on public safety during the execution of construction projects with the purpose of reducing the number of accidents.

Foundation presents awards to nine Arab scientists

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation (AHSF) Wednesday distributed its 1985 awards to nine young and distinguished scientists from Jordan and the Arab World.

Addressing a special ceremony held on the occasion, AHSF Chairman Abdul Majid Shoman reviewed the achievements and the objectives of the foundation and its role in promoting local and Arab scientific research.

Each of the awards worth JD 3,000 were granted to nine scientists, including five from Jordan. Out of 84 scientists nominated by different Arab countries, only 75 were eligible for consideration by the awards committee and only nine received the awards, according to Dr. Assad Abdul Rahman, the foundation's director general.

He said that the awards were presented in recognition of the scientists' distinguished work and their developed methods in teaching sciences to students in the Arab World.

The winners who received their awards at the ceremony were: Dr. Hani Nicola Khouri (basic sciences), Dr. Ali Ahmad Fodeh (mathematics, statistics and computers), Dr. Mukhtar Omar Abbasi (engineering sciences), Dr. Samir Fuad Atawi (medical sciences), Dr. Abdullah Saleh Oweidi Al Ahbadi (chemical sciences), Dr. Anwar Al Battikhi (agricultural sciences), Dr. Farouk Al 'Ani (biological sciences), Dr. Radwan Al Sayyed (humanities), Dr. Jawdat Saadeh (social sciences).

The award winners Wednesday visited the University of Jordan and met with its president Abdul Salam Al Majali who briefed the scientists on the university's development and its activities. He also praised the AHSF for its role in promoting the scientific movement in the Arab World.

Students to help fund raising campaign for cancer centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The national team entrusted with setting up the Amal Cancer Centre at the University of Jordan Hospital will launch a campaign to raise contributions from citizens and organisations in Jordan on April 30, according to an announcement by the committee's secretary on Wednesday.

The secretary said that nearly 1,000 students will take part in the week-long campaign and that they will visit banks, companies and other organisations.

The donations are needed to help raise funds for launching the initial stage of the project, estimated to cost JD 1 million, the secretary said. He said that a similar campaign launched with students' help last year raised JD 500,000.

Symposium on war continues

(Continued from page 1)

The report also underscored the social and psychological effects of the war, mainly the imbalance in the two countries' social structure from the death of hundreds of thousands of people.

On the political level, the war has forced both countries to seek international and regional alliances which contradict their declared ideologies, the report said and cited examples of Iranian arms purchases from Israel despite earlier pledges by the Iranian rulers to fight the Jewish state.

The war also has serious legal repercussions, including violation of international laws and charters which forbid the acquisition of land by force and torture and killing of prisoners of war.

Sheikh Al Maliki, secretary general of the Arab Union of Jurists, referred to the various peace efforts pursued by the Non-Alignment Movement, and the goodwill mission of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and initiatives launched by the international community to settle the conflict. "Iran, which refused to cooperate with these missions, has undermined these efforts," Mr. Maliki said.

He called on the U.N. Security Council to take economic and diplomatic sanctions against Iran in accordance with articles stipulated in the U.N. Charter.

International Trade Union's (ITU) Secretary-General Jean Goudrey voiced his union's support to the symposium's initiatives, "which aim at putting an end to this ferocious war which has resulted in heavy losses in both countries' economy, people, living standard and the situation of labourers."

The ITU, which represents millions of people, believes that an end to the war would reduce the imperialist and Zionist presence in the area, Mr. Goudrey said. He called on all "peace-loving and progressive forces" to endorse all resolutions and implement all decisions stemming from the Amman meeting.

Dr. Jaber Al Rawwi from the University of Jordan called on both Iran and Iraq to drop charges against the other. "Insistence of stands adopted by both countries will only impede progress to find a just solution for the conflict," Dr. Rawwi said and underlined the importance of referring to the Security Council for the final verdict in the conflict.

Another participant from the University of Jordan, Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber said "although Jordan supports Iraq, it does not consider itself to be an enemy of Iran."

"We hope that Iran will opt for peace. Our deliberations should attempt to search for means which could convince Iran to stop the war since Iraq has declared its readiness for peace," Dr. Abu Jaber, a renowned Arab historian, said.

Abdul Munim Al Ghazali from the permanent secretariat of the ITU, denounced the "mullah regime in Iran." Iran will take its aggression against Iraq to the neighbouring Gulf countries, Mr. Ghazali said, "since Iran believes in being the policeman of the Gulf."

Jean Kolakowski, also from the ITU, said the Amman symposium should adopt a peaceful initiative to settle the conflict and should act as a "rallying force to mobilise the world labour and public opinion in a bid to achieve peace."

"The ITU supports any movement to settle the war since both countries share historical, religious and cultural ties," Mr. Kolakowski added.

Secretary-General of the Arab Union of Economists Tamer Razouki also underscored the negative impact of the war on both countries' economy and the heavy human losses it has inflicted on both peoples.

Mr. Nicol Davidson, president of the International Society for non-governmental U.N. associations, emphasised the important mediatory role Syria can play in putting an end to the war.

The Syrians have military and religious ties with Iran and thus their mediatory capabilities could be utilised to end the dispute," Mr. Davidson said.

He criticised Iran for its conditions that the Iraqis president be toppled before Tehran agrees to peace negotiations with Iraq.

"No country can force another country to get rid of its ruling president. The change of the president can only be achieved through the people and constitution of the concerned country," he said.

Lower House convenes today to begin debate on new draft electoral law

By Rama Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament will meet today to start discussions on a new draft electoral law which promises wide-ranging reforms of the 1960 law currently in force and which would open the door for a larger sector of the population to vote.

The new electoral law was promulgated by His Majesty King Hussein in his speech from the throne to Parliament's inaugural session last November. The law will maintain equal representation of both the East and West Banks of Jordan, although the number of deputies in the Lower House will be increased to 138 deputies instead of the present 60.

According to the draft law, which was drawn up and endorsed by the government on Dec. 30, the number of deputies was increased to 130. But a senior Jordanian official told the Jordan Times that the House's legal committee, after thoroughly studying the law, introduced numerous amendments to some of its articles such as increasing the number of deputies from 130 to 138.

The draft law was passed by the cabinet to the House on Jan. 10 and is expected to cover the whole parliamentary process, beginning from the registration of voters to the announcement of election results and it represents a complete and total reform of the existing law, in effect since 1960.

The draft law, which has been kept under wraps, also drops the voting age to 19 from 20 with the aim of granting a larger sector of the population the right to vote.

The legal committee ended its final round of discussions on the law on Feb. 16 by drawing up numerous recommendations regarding the number of constituencies and representation by deputies, the senior official said. He did not elaborate but added that the House was expected to have discussed the law on Feb. 20. However discussions of the law were postponed and the committee re-opened new discussions over the law.

Parliamentary observers here believe that the committee has given the law due attention and discussion but they do not expect the Parliament to be dissolved until January 1988, when Parliament's four-year term ends.

The King, who suspended Parliament in 1974, reconvened it in January 1984.

While drafting the proposed law's constituencies, electoral districts and districts, the social and economic developments were taken into consideration as well as the historical circumstances, population density and fair distribution of seats and representation.

Nine seats in the Parliament will also be allocated for representatives from Jordan's nine refugee camps. These camps are: Al Wihdat, Al Hussein, Al Talibieh, Irbid, Husun, Jerash and Souf together. Baqa'a, Zarqa and Hittin. Under the 1960 law, the refugee camps were represented by deputies from the constituencies in which the camps were located.

In Thursday's session, the House will also listen to a Royal Decree extending the House's current session for an additional two months from Feb. 28.

The House will also refer to its committees a draft amendment to the People's Army law and proposals raised by deputies related to labour laws, the conscription law and loan agreements, as well as a complaint by sheep merchants in Quesemeh and issues raised by the agricultural sector in the occupied West Bank.

Rawabdeh calls for coordination between Arab, foreign cities

RIYADH (Petra) — Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh has called on Arab states to help strengthen ties between Arab and foreign cities to enable them to exchange expertise and information about public services, planning and other municipal spheres.

Mr. Rawabdeh, who was addressing a general conference of the Arab Cities Organisation (ACO) which is being held in Riyadh, said that foreign cities are far ahead regarding cooperation between themselves in municipal affairs and he added that efforts should be made to enable Arab cities to benefit from their experience.

The ACO, he said, maintains cooperation with foreign cities by jointly organising symposiums and conferences and through cooperation agreements in municipal affairs.

Mr. Rawabdeh was quoted by Riyadh radio as saying that the ACO is now trying to tackle the problems of migration from rural to urban regions in the Arab World, random building, the lack of public gardens and pollution.

An ACO scientific committee is continuing its discussions on a number of working papers dealing with inter-Arab cooperation in urban affairs.

Credit institutions asked to reschedule farmers' repayments

AMMAN (Petra) — Specialised credit institutions in Jordan have been instructed by the government to reschedule farmers' loans and to allow repayment over the coming five years in a bid to encourage farmers to increase production.

A statement by the Prime Ministry Wednesday said that farmers' loans and interest due to the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) up to the end of 1985 will be allowed to be settled over a five-year period with no interest during the extension period.

In addition, all farmers' medium and long-term loans obtained from the ACC during 1986 will be exempted from any interest, the statement added. It said that these measures will also be applicable to loans obtained from the Jordan Cooperative Organisation.

Tragedy, death in the woods, on roads and in homes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A man, identified only as ZSS, shot dead his young wife and then left her body under a tree where it was discovered by picnickers in Yajouz, between Sweileh and Zarqa, according to a spokesman for Sweileh police station. The spokesman said that the man, who later turned himself into the police, fired several shots at his wife in a wooded area in Yajouz and then ran away. The body was found by people spending an outing in the area and the man later admitted to killing his wife, the spokesman added. No other details were given but the spokesman said that the investigation is continuing.

According to a report in the press Wednesday, a road accident at Daba's south of Amman caused the death of a 24-year-old woman, Rima Fuad, and her two young children. The report said that the woman's husband, Mahmoud, was severely injured in the accident when their vehicle hit the back of a Kuwaiti truck which was parked along the road at night. Civil defence teams from Daba rushed to the scene of the accident and took the bodies and the injured man to Al Bashir Hospital in Amman.

A 50-year-old man by the name of Sha'aban Abdul Ghani Al Abtah from Irbid camp was found hanged and dead in his own home, according to a report in the Arabic press Wednesday. The report said that the body was taken to Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid for an autopsy.

Working team finds urgent need for more, better mental health facilities

By Sana Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — There are 250,000 Jordanians who are psychiatric patients and of this number 30,000 are severely disturbed and 10,000 are in need of hospitalisation at some time, according to Dr. Ihsan Ra'afat, director of the National Centre for Mental Health in Fuhais and director of the Karameh Hospital for Mental Health. But there are only 300 available beds in Jordan. The two major hospitals in the country are the ones mentioned above and together they accommodate only 200 patients.

Before 1967 there were no hospitals for psychiatric patients in the East Bank of Jordan and patients were accommodated in Bethlehem. After 1967, the Ministry of Health opened the National Centre for Mental Health in Fuhais and immediately took in 100 people. There were no doctors, no specialists, no nurses and no other staff, so the psychiatric department had to start from zero. Now there are available staff but still not enough, and the patient staff ratio is too high, Dr. Ra'afat said.

Although the hospital is not all impressive to the visitor and is also quite dirty, there is a new extension built by the Health Ministry, which has been ready for a year but is not being used. This new extension, also known as the National Centre for Mental Health, can accommodate up to 230 patients very comfortably. There are different sizes of bedrooms, recreational rooms, a gymnasium, clinics, a dispensary and a nicely decorated and furnished auditorium which seats 300 people.

The resident doctors' living quarters are on the same premises and are occupied. A small section on the ground floor is occupied by women patients, who make up four to six per cent of all patients and the auditorium is being used for lecturing medical and nursing students. Two rooms on the second floor are used by the administration. The reason the patients have not yet been transferred to the new and spacious extension is because it has not yet been furnished. The resident doctors, the women patients, and the administration are using their old furniture.

Dr. Ra'afat says that the new hospital will be ready to take in the patients in several months. The old building will become a high security wing and will be renovated to accommodate psychiatric offenders sentenced by court orders.

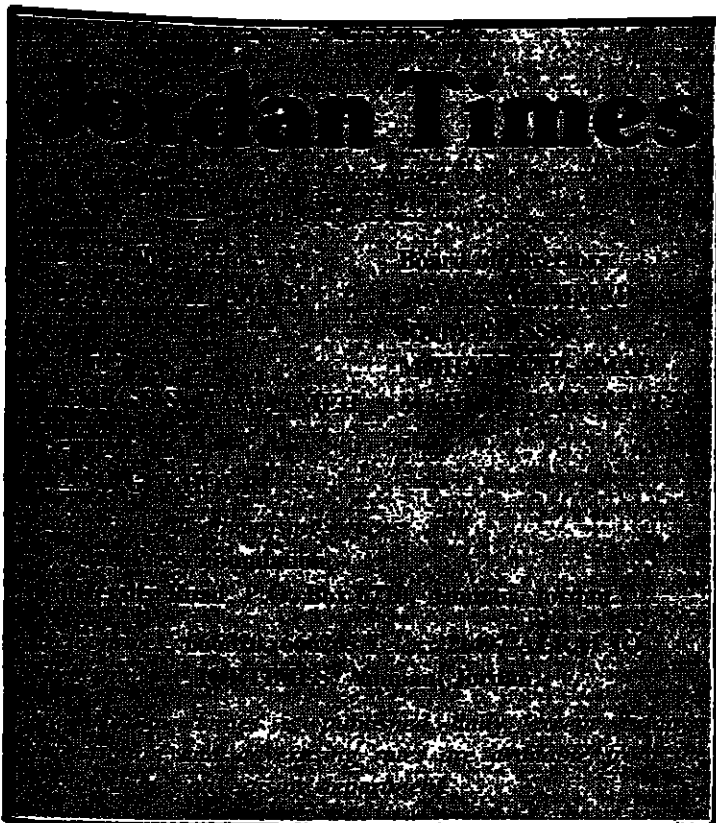
Karameh Hospital

The Karameh Hospital was previously a hotel and was bought by the Ministry of Health in 1981. This is the first rehabilitation centre for psychiatric patients in Jordan and it accommodates 100 men. This hospital is very nicely furnished although it needs maintenance. There are recreation facilities for patients and a new extension has been built to be the actual rehabilitation centre and here patients work on handicrafts such as stuffed dolls, plastic flowers, woodwork, and worry beads. Dr. Ra'afat told the Jordan Times: "Being an open hospital, some of the patients regularly go out and come back; there are regular trips for them around the country and some patients work outside the hospital in nearby factories."

New proposals

A committee was formed by involved persons in psychiatry in Jordan and they held 16 meetings between October 1985 and January 1986. "A full report was given to the minister of health concerning new proposals for a full programme in mental health," says Dr. Ra'afat. The proposal, which has been approved by the ministry, suggests that the National Centre for Mental Health become a place for treatment and care of patients, for research, for training doctors and nurses and for providing advice on psychiatric services. Concerned ministries and associations will finance this programme.

"The proposal also includes opening specialised psychiatric wards in all general hospitals," adds Dr. Ra'afat. "There is also a need to open new psychiatric clinics and rehabilitation centres in all parts of Jordan, starting with the big cities. Therefore we need more doctors and staff. Care must be available near the people; this way, people who never go for psychiatric help will come for it. It is very important that people should not be afraid to come for proper consultation. Therefore, psychiatric illnesses and psychiatric help will become more accepted by society and will stop being shameful," he said.



A much-wanted exposure

WHEN THE Iranian masses rose against the Shah and toppled his dictatorship the world was jubilant. The Iranian revolution was a victory for an oppressed people and underscored the eternal truth that oppression cannot hope to last for ever. The world was also happy that it was a well-deserved victory of the Iranian people, who, for many years, had been the victims of ruthless leaders and a despotic regime. But now, seven years after the Shah was toppled, it has been irrefutably established that the 1979 "revolution" was the victory of the ayatollahs and mullahs and not of the Iranian masses or the cause of the martyrs who sacrificed their own lives in the people's struggle against tyranny.

Seldom in modern history has any country had to bear the ruthless treatment meted out by the present Tehran regime through its 500 or so revolutionary courts against the same people who installed the ayatollahs in power. Summary trials where the "accused" are not even allowed access to lawyers and executions within hours after the "sentence" is passed are unheard of these days, and yet this is precisely what is happening in Iran.

It must have been an experience of jumping from the frying pan to the fire for the Iranian people when the Iran-Iraq war broke out in 1980, barely 19 months after the Khomeini regime took power. Disappointing and pathetic as it was for the Iranians to realise that they were no nearer to their aspired goals of basic freedoms and respect for human rights in the months that preceded the eruption of the war than the pre-Shah days, it was another severe blow to the masses when the regime found in the war a perfect tool to hang on to power.

The Iranian regime cannot afford to allow their people to settle down and contemplate their own folly in installing fanatics in power. It has to continue to use the war with Iraq as the perfect smokescreen that could hide the disasters the mullahs' rule wrought upon Iran and its people. These disasters are manifest not only in the hundreds of thousands of lives that Iran and Iraq have lost already, but also in the severe damage to the two countries' economic and social structures that this war has caused.

The "No-to-War, Yes-to-Peace" symposium which is being currently held in Amman should tell us a good deal about the other side of the story which has not been properly exposed or articulated yet. The story, painful as it is, has to be told so that the true dangers of this mad war can be exposed and understood by the whole world, and not the least by the ayatollahs themselves. It is they in the end who, by continuing the conflict with Iraq and not heeding the voice of the reason and the call of peace, are inflicting the most damage on their country and people and their Muslim brothers to the West. It is not that the ayatollahs do not know what the war has already cost. The real purpose is to let them and the rest of the world know what the alternative to this mad conflict might so satisfactorily be.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S. aggression against Arabs

THE United States has escalated its provocations against the Arab nation and attacked Libya openly. Before the aggression, Washington launched a propaganda campaign against Libya led by President Reagan himself and echoed by the American press. The Americans claiming that Libya is the seat of international terrorism have been rallying world nations against the Libyan and the Arab people. But it is known to the whole world that it is the United States that acts as a patron of international terrorism. With its aggression on Libya the United States proved once again that it is the enemy of nations and with its attack, it meant to show the other nations that it would not hesitate to use force to achieve its ends. Washington wants the whole world to be subjugated to its own will and to behave according to its own desires and to capitulate to Washington's terms at the expense of their dignity and self respect, and with total disregard to world security and peace. Libya is a country whose policies are against ours and with whom many Arabs disagree. But it is now facing an external aggression from a superpower that is supposed to be an advocate of world peace. We hope that the U.S. will find in Libya the last lesson it must learn for respecting the will of nations.

Al Dustour: U.S. evil designs against the Arab nation

THE United States has launched an attack on Libya in total defiance of millions of the Arab people and in flagrant violation of international principles and laws. This aggression was directed against world's stability and therefore, constituted a grave danger to peace. The United States has planned this aggression for several months and mobilised its fleets and war planes. After failing to involve the Europeans in this aggression, Washington decided to launch it alone with total indifference to world public opinion and as a flagrant violation of international principles and laws. The United States chose to attack Libya at a time when the Arab foreign ministers were holding their meeting in Tunis. This bears a clear indication that the United States meant to provide a fresh evidence of its evil intentions and total disregard to the feelings of millions of Arab people.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arab stance is lesson for Libya

THE American attack on Libya did not come as a coincidence when the Arab League council meeting was in progress, but it came with the U.S. full knowledge that the Arab nation is weak and divided. The aggression also came at a time when the Arabs are meeting in Amman to discuss means for ending the Gulf War. The attack was a means for diverting peoples' attention from that war. The aggression was another link in a series of imperialist onslaughts on our Arab region and entails a lesson for the Arabs to understand and to benefit from it. Though the Libyans have chosen to support the Iranian aggressors against the Iraqi people, all the Arabs are now supporting Libya in the face of the external aggression on its territory. The Libyans should understand that the Arabs should not accept any aggression directed against any part of the Arab World and take a lesson from this. This is a lesson for all those Arabs who choose to remain away from joint Arab action for serving Arab causes.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

U.S. rejoices as the West wins the oil war, but, will it last?

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — The main news from the United States must remind Middle Eastern readers of the days of Harun ar-Rashid. Suddenly millions of Americans are finding lots of new money in their pockets. That is because 40 per cent of Americans own stocks, and the stock market has been rising like a vertical take-off airplane. It is like seeing a man standing on a street corner and handing out \$100 dollar bills to everyone!

Why has this happened? The simplest and truest answer is the collapse of the oil market. Oil prices are very low in the United States and may go even lower. Oil has been, since the early 1970's, the leading cause of inflation. During the mid-1970's it was the leading cause of recession.

But as oil prices stabilised in the early 1980's, inflation went down. Now as oil prices have collapsed, economies seem to be recovering fast, not just in the United States but in other countries. Many businessmen remember that cheap oil made possible the great economic upswings of the 1950's and 1960's. Now they hope ... and expect ... that those feats of earlier decades will be repeated.

And because inflation is low, bonds become desirable. And because there is so much "windfall" cash to invest in new business or simply spend, stocks also have become desirable. Since this extraordinary economic phenomenon affects the entire world, we ask: why has it come about, what does it mean, and is it real or an illusion?

It came about not because there was a glut of oil in the world, but because the oil producing nations could not, together, form a global cartel to control and stabilise the price of oil. Specifically, Saudi Arabia and Britain could not jointly agree to collaborate.

The world price of oil has been very high since OPEC became a major political force in the early 1970's. But the high price of oil has also brought about a huge transfer of wealth from the First to the Third World. Even though much of the wealth has been wasted, it stimulated growth in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and in Africa, notably Nigeria.

The low price of oil means that this transfer of wealth has been halted. The First World

wants to keep its own wealth. Washington has the so-called "Baker plan" to make new loans to indebted Third World countries, but so far the plan has not recruited any takers. It remains just a plan.

This provides an answer to the second question, what does it mean. During the remainder of the 1980's and beyond to the 1990's, there will be less wealth available to the Third World. The oil producing countries will have less, but also the developing countries.

Will the newly invigorated developed countries import more from the developing countries and provide them with new sources of earnings? Perhaps, but it is also possible developed countries will just trade more with each other.

Commodity prices have been falling sharply throughout the world, as Malaysia has discovered with its tin, and sugar producers in tropical countries have found out. There is a good chance that consumers in the developed countries are going to spend more for services than goods, and less spending on goods means less earnings for developing countries.

This brings us to the last question, is it real or an illusion. It is real if the Third World countries once again sink back into the role of providers of cheap materials, products, and labour for the developed countries, as in the 1950's and 1960's.

But that is not very likely. The Third World is an awake and no longer a sleeping force. The Middle East which still has

the greatest, by far, proven reserves of oil in the world will most certainly fight hard to regain control of world oil pricing. Latin America is in great political and economic turmoil. The Soviet Union with its oil exports and China with its rapidly developing economic power are just entering the world economic picture.

All the economic news in the U.S. is good, too good to last. In ancient days, soldiers could go forth and steal wealth from foreign peoples, and these peoples submitted quietly. Today that is no longer the case. It is just not conceivable that the First World can revel in all this windfall wealth and the other parts of the world will meekly watch and obey like servants.

Sudan treads a democratic path

Sudan, beset by many problems, faces its first free elections in 20 years. Mary Ann Fitzgerald and John Murray Brown describe the bewildering array of 47 political parties jostling for the votes of 10 million people, most of whom are going to the polls for the first time.

KHARTOUM — Sudan is preparing for its first free elections in 20 years, fulfilling the promise of interim head of state General Abdul Rahman Swaraddhab to return the country to civilian rule one year after the overthrow of former President Jafar Numeiri.

The transition to democracy will not be easy. This large underdeveloped country has experienced only brief interludes of civilian rule in its 30 years of independence and is still preoccupied with shaking off the trappings of Mr. Numeiri's 16-year military regime.

A number of problems threaten the country: an unprecedented debt crisis, a civil war in the south, and food shortages that could put 3.6 million people's lives at risk.

Sudan's political spectrum now embraces 47 political parties, many of which have sprung up in the past few months, in preparation for voting beginning on April 1. Campaign issues are little discussed and party platforms are amorphous.

The parties are as yet untested, and most of the 10 million voters are going to the polls for the first time. They are likely to cast their ballots along religious lines rather than political ones.

Political observers are expecting the right-wing Umma Party to win the lion's share of the vote. Its leader, the Oxford-educated Mr. Sadiq el-Mahdi, is one of the few contestants to have had previous political experience, briefly as Prime Minister in the 1960s. He is better known however for carrying the mantle of the religious Ansar sect, passed down through the family from his great-grandfather, who rose in rebellion against General Charles Gordon in 1883.

The Mahdi, who claimed to be the messianic figure awaited by Islamic true believers, is still a name to conjure with in Sudan. It was he who rebelled against the domination of Egypt and Britain, an uprising which led to the death of Gen. Gordon and the subsequent fall of Khartoum — a rebellion which was not suppressed until the battle of Omdurman in 1898.

Politically, the Ansar sect still stands for an Islamic Sudan independent of wider pan-Arab influences and Egypt in particular. The opening of the Umma party headquarters in January in Omdurman was held on the anniversary of the Mahdi's triumphant entry into Khartoum.

While Mr. el-Mahdi, who has chosen Abu Island (given to his family by Gen. Kitchener) as his constituency, is regarded as the most likely candidate to be the next civilian head of state, it is generally thought he will lead a coalition government, a point that Gen. Swaraddhab recently underlined. "Sadiq el-Mahdi is keen not to isolate the leftists. He wants them in Parliament as they can do more damage outside," said a Khartoum lawyer. The compromise arrangement is likely to include an unusual cross-section of political philosophies.

The 40-year-old Communist Party, which won two seats in the last elections, is aligned with Moscow, but its leader, Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Nugud, who has spent most of his political life underground, will probably agree to an alliance with Umma and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

The conservative DUP, led by Mr. Sharif el-Hindi, draws its support from the merchant middle class and is likely to be runner-up to Umma. It enjoys close ties with Sudan's more conservative benefactors such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Egypt, as well as the United States.

The Umma party, on the other



hand, is known to have good relations in the past with Col. Muammar Qadhafi, the Libyan leader, who afforded party followers a base in his country when they opposed Mr. Numeiri.

The wild card in the political pack is the fundamentalist Islamic National Front, formerly the Muslim Brotherhood, which was responsible for the introduction of Sharia law under Mr. Numeiri. INF party leader Dr. Hassan Turabi was one of the chief advocates of the more radical aspects of Sharia, including the amputation of limbs as a punishment for theft.

The party has dropped its old name in a bid to distance itself from the unpopular Numeiri legacy. The INF still retains support, especially among university students, the bureaucratic backbone of the former government and young army officers.

The bewildering array of parties, from Arab nationalists to moderates, are, however, united on the two most crucial problems facing the country. They are implacably opposed to the International Monetary Fund, which declared Sudan ineligible for aid early in March when it failed to meet a timetable to pay \$252 million of debt arrears.



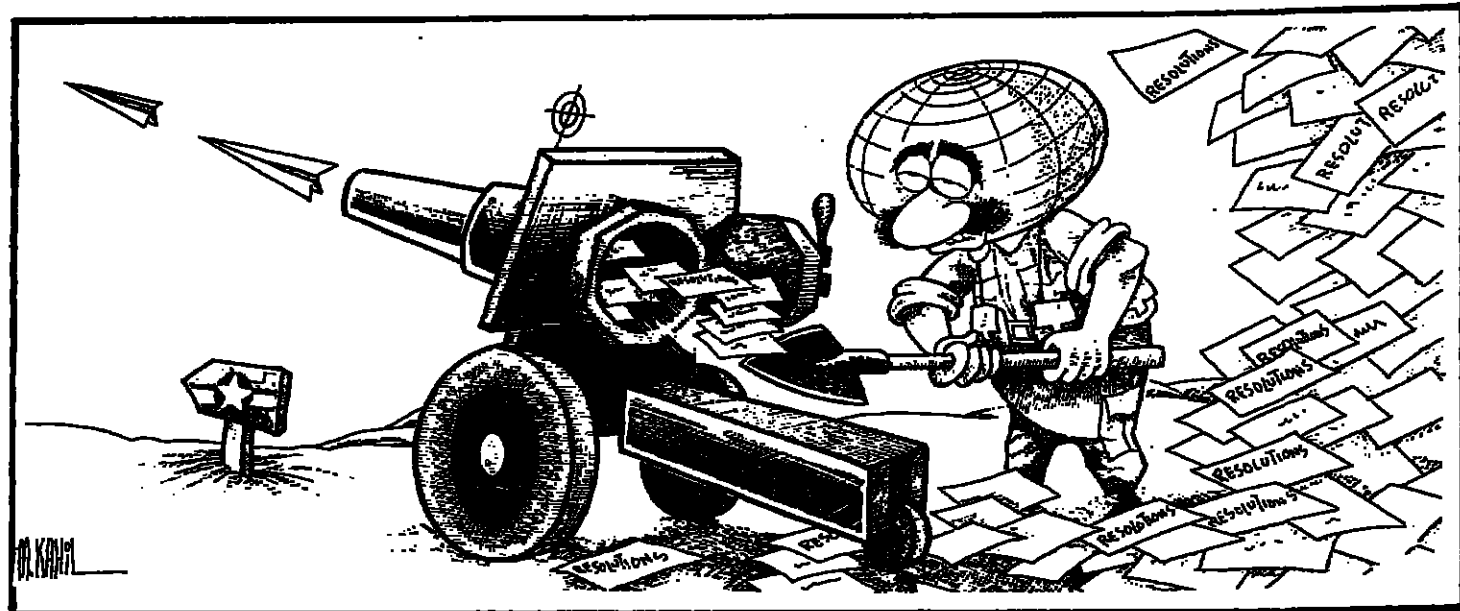
Sadiq El Mahdi

The IMF conditions of devaluation and lifting of price controls were largely responsible for Mr. Numeiri's downfall. Sudan is now cut off from the aid needed to manage its \$9 billion external debt obligations and resuscitate an almost bankrupt economy.

Almost all the parties are keen to sue for peace with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which revived a rebellion in the south against the predominantly Arab north in 1983. Col. John Garang, the SPLA leader, is proving truculent, however. He has given short shrift to a series of government delegations dispatched to his headquarters in neighbouring Ethiopia and is seeking greater economic benefits for the underdeveloped south along with the repeal of Sharia law.

Col. Garang has stated that he will not take part in the forthcoming elections, thus putting their credibility in doubt. His forces are quite capable of preventing elections being held at all in much of the south.

Without a peace agreement, therefore, whatever government came to power would have to address itself to the reality of once again being identified as a predominantly Arab, Muslim administration from the north facing an increasingly alienated south — Financial Times feature.



U.S. press opinion: The Gulf of Sirte

On March 13, U.S. navy ships sailed into Soviet territorial waters in the Black Sea provoking a strong protest from Moscow. On March 24, U.S. Sixth Fleet ships sailed into Libya's declared "historical bay" of Sirte (see story on the legal status of the Gulf of Sirte), provoking a Libyan reaction. Following are excerpts from editorials of leading U.S. newspapers on March 26.

Los Angeles Times

The right of international passage affects every maritime nation, and the United States has been right in affirming that principle wherever it has been challenged. So there was good reason for American warships once again to sail in recent days off the Black Sea shore of the Soviet Union and to enter the Gulf of Sirte north of Libya.

There were diplomatic protests from Moscow, but no interference with ships passing through the Black Sea. But Col. Muammar Qadhafi, the Libyan leader, was not content with his claim of sovereignty over the high seas and unleashed, so it is reported, six missiles — presumably targeted against U.S. warplanes and Navy ships challenging his claim. That act of aggression invited retaliation.

The American response, as announced at the White House and the Pentagon, appeared to be measured and appropriate, striking at two missile warships apparently moving toward the 6th Fleet, and also striking at the land-based missile battery from which at least some of the weapons used against American targets had been fired.

In those elements of the conflict

there appear to be broad issues of international law, of right and wrong, that give support in principle to what the United States was affirming and that discredit Qadhafi's resort to violence.

The judgement of the world may be coloured, however, by the very scale of the action that the United States undertook in the Mediterranean.

The sudden escalation from confrontation to battle underscores the importance of action now to end the hostilities quickly, permanently, lest they spark a broader conflagration. The violence measures the volatility of the Libyan leader. The United States can demonstrate, in the way it restores peace, its respect of a world ruled by law.

Washington Post

As an operation measured in its own terms, the American action was unexceptionable. The claim of free passage gave it full colour of law. The amount of force that the United States mustered at the scene — a massive fleet of three carrier groups — was more than adequate to care for any conceivable contingency. The Americans determined that the Libyans fired first. The response seems to have been proportional to the attack. Execution, by the

available accounts, was efficient. If Russians were hit — at the missile site, for instance — it was not because they had been insufficiently warned.

Nor can there be the slightest doubt that, in the larger context of his flagrantly revolutionary international role, Col. Qadhafi richly deserves any punishment visited upon him. By his espousal of terrorism and subversion across a wide swath of nations, he has forfeited any fair claim to enjoying the privileges of the international community.

Why is it, then, that we and, we suspect, a good number of other Americans entertain misgivings about the operation? On our part, it is because we are not sure the political aspects were as carefully planned as the military ones seem to have been.

What President Reagan may have intended as a measured response can too easily be received as a humiliation for which an avenging "justice" must be done. Col. Qadhafi cannot be treated as a rational actor who will take into account risks and costs in the Western manner. An American president cannot ignore considerations of American pride and global responsibility. Nor can an American president ignore considerations of local passion. What happened in the Gulf of Sirte was an event in a sequence whose next developments are particularly uncertain.

The New York Times

Colonel Qadhafi's "line of death" in the Gulf of Sirte is no longer a figure of speech. U.S. warplanes said to be the targets of Libyan missiles responded by attacking the missile site and sinking at least one Libyan patrol boat, with all hands presumed dead. The two sides disagree on whether planes were downed but agree that the missiles were fired. That suggests strongly that Libya's unstable despot has provoked a hard, instant and just reprisal.

Libya claims that its territorial waters encompass the entire Gulf of Sirte, well beyond the 12-mile limit accepted by the United States. At the risk of angering the Libyan leader, the U.S. Navy decided to assert its navigational rights. It has crossed the "line of death" seven times since 1981, and has operated in the area 19 times in that same period. In January, Col. Qadhafi vowed to punish the next incursion into waters claimed by Libya. He recently acquired Soviet SA-5 missiles, which were apparently fired.

For good reason, the Soviet Union has dealt warily with Col. Qadhafi, resisting his overtures for a friendship pact. It has not supported his claims to the gulf, though it has assailed U.S. naval manoeuvres. Nothing would better suit the colonel than to entangle his Russian patrons in his own quarrel with the United States. At this point it should be the American purpose to keep this conflict within bounds.

On the legal status of the Gulf of Sirte

WHILE the United States Sixth Fleet last month sailed perilously close to Libya's Gulf of Sirte, as part of Washington's response to alleged Libyan involvement in the terrorist attacks at Rome and Vienna airports in December, American officials were dismissing Tripoli's claim that the Gulf forms part of its territory. Washington insists that the Gulf is an international waterway, to which American warships should have unhindered access.

Media reports of the crisis, however, showed a poor grasp of the legal issues. Generally, waters immediately off a coast are either territorial or internal. The latter comprise bays less than 24 nautical miles across at their mouths, and the state has absolute sovereignty. In territorial waters,

which usually extend 12 miles offshore, the state's sovereignty is total, except that foreign ships have the right of innocent passage.

At its first meeting, in 1958, however, the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea drew up a Convention which also recognised the concept of "historic bays", defining them as entities which exceed the size limits relating to internal waters, and over which the coastal state, by virtue of traditional use, exercises the same level of sovereignty as it does over internal waters.

Libya claims the Gulf of Sirte, not as part of its territorial or internal waters, but as a historic bay. In its claim, dated Oct. 9, 1973, Tripoli asserted that "through history and without any dispute, the Libyan Arab Republic has ex-

ercised sovereignty over the Gulf." The declaration also stated that Libyan sovereignty was essential for national security, and that ships of other states would not be allowed to enter the Gulf without prior permission.

The claim was by no means unique. Well over fifty historic bays have been declared, including the Bristol Channel, Long Island Sound, Hudson's Bay and Tunisia's Gulf of Gabes.

Washington's objections to the Libyan claim date from February 1974. The United States argues that Libyan authority in the Gulf of Sirte has never been continuous, recognised and effective.

U.S. claims regarding the Gulf were widely publicised in August 1981, when American carrier-

based fighters shot down two Libyan planes over the waterway. Then, however, as in this year's crisis, Washington was using its position on navigation rights as a pretext. The real objective was to provoke an armed confrontation with Libya.

As Dr. Gerald Blake, a lecturer in political geography at Durham University, told the Bulletin: "If the Americans were seriously interested in determining the legal status of the Gulf of Sirte, rather than in putting pressure on Libya, they would take the matter to the International Court of Justice in The Hague. To my knowledge, no efforts have been made in that direction" — Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding.

China's parliament to set seal on reformist policies

By Mark O'Neill
Reuters

PEKING — China's parliament opened an annual session on Tuesday to place its seal of approval on reformist leader Deng Xiaoping's five-year economic master plan.

Nearly 3,000 delegates gathered in Peking's Great Hall of the People for the meeting of the national people's congress, which provides a forum for the ruling Communist Party leaders to explain their economic policies in detail.

The congress always approves measures placed before it by party

leaders — usually unanimously — but Western diplomats say it gives provincial delegates an opportunity to air their views, even if only in closed session.

Premier Zhao Ziyang, one of Deng's proteges, is expected to confirm wide-ranging reforms aimed at a further shake-up of China's inefficient economy in a major speech on the five-year economic plan for 1986-1990.

In a special article on the congress, the official weekly magazine Peking Review said on March 23 that invigorating China's "ossified economic structure" was an arduous and complex job.

The reforms, introduced gra-

dually since Deng regained control of the Communist Party in 1979, have led to rapid increases in living standards and production, especially of farm goods.

They also resulted in price increases that last year were the highest for 30 years, a record trade deficit, plunging foreign exchange reserves, and runaway growth that severely strained an economy short of power and raw materials.

The Peking Review said that under the new five-year economic plan, China would aim for an annual growth rate of seven per cent, down from 10 per cent since 1980.

It said the plan would concentrate on making factories more

accountable by dismantling to create more market-related prices.

"I expect no major policy surprises or changes in personnel at the congress," a Western diplomat said.

"It will give in more detail policies outlined at a conference of the Communist Party last September."

The September conference replaced dozens of elderly cadres with younger Dengist candidates. It also heard the dissenting voice of veteran leader Chen Yun hit out at excessive economic growth, neglect of grain production and rising corruption.

Northern Jordan Valley excavations provide evidence of cultural exchanges with southern Syria 6,000 years ago

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

FOR those who may have wondered about what kinds of cultural exchanges took place between northern Jordan and southern Syria 6,000 years ago, some answers have started to come in from the small town of North Shouneh, at the northern end of the Jordan Valley.

The American scholar Carrie Ellen Gustavson-Gaube, who completed two seasons of rescue excavations in 1984 and 1985 at the remnants of Tell North Shouneh, has started to piece together some parts of the puzzle of regional cultural influences in this region during the 5th/4th Millennium B.C.

This was during the long transition period from the Pottery Neolithic B/Chalcolithic eras into the Early Bronze Age I, when humankind's early year-round, settled farming villages gradually developed into the "proto-urban" stage that in turn gave rise to proper walled towns during the Early Bronze Age.

Mrs. Gustavson-Gaube, completing her doctoral dissertation at the University of Toronto, Canada, is a specialist in the Late Neolithic/Chalcolithic period in the Near East, with a particular interest in the questions of ceramic distribution between contemporary cultures.

She has now documented some 1,000 years of nearly continuous settlement at Tell North Shouneh — from the late 5th Millennium to the late 4th Millennium — and has traced how new pottery forms and decorative techniques from southern Syria gradually influenced, and ultimately totally dominated, the traditions of the northern Jordan Valley potters.

Sadly, there is not much left to see of Tell North Shouneh, should you pass through this bustling little community at the northern end of the valley, at the junction of the main valley highway and the road from Irbid.

When it was first identified in 1953 as an important archaeological site, Tell North Shouneh measured nearly a kilometre long by 100-150 metres wide, and stood almost ten metres high. Since then, construction activity

and the expansion of North Shouneh town have destroyed or covered up most of the tell.

While ancient pottery sherds are still found throughout the town, only about a 45x50-metre and six-metre-high segment of the tell remains intact, now located in the middle of the bus stop and next to the mosque.

Hassan Abu 'Awad of the Department of Antiquities discovered the site in January 1953 and conducted a brief sondage covering nine square metres. The results, published by Henri de Contenson in 1960, showed this to be a large, rich settlement predominantly from the Middle Chalcolithic/Early Bronze I and II period, with a thin Ayyubid/Mamluke occupation. Some two decades later, the 1975/76 Jordan Valley survey team headed by James Sauer, Khair Yassine and Moawiyah Ibrahim also visited the site, and identified pottery from the Neolithic/Chalcolithic, Early Bronze, and Ayyubid/Mamluke periods.

After yet another decade, Mrs. Gustavson-Gaube conducted her two seasons of excavation, sponsored by the University of Tubingen/DFG, Yarmouk University and the Jordanian Department of Antiquities. She completed a well stratified sequence of pottery spanning the Pottery Neolithic B/Late Chalcolithic-to-Early Bronze Age I transition period in the north Jordan Valley, with possible EB II sherds in some areas. She exposed 77 square metres of the tell, in some areas excavating through 4.3 metres of occupational levels from the 5th/4th Millennium B.C.

She documented a compact ancient occupational sequence of alternating, partially-exposed rooms and associated floors, courtyards, work surfaces, pits, fills, and ash or refuse layers. The earliest Pottery Neolithic B/Chalcolithic occupation was represented by some pits and possible post-holes dug into the natural alluvium.

Above this level were the remains of a mud-brick wall that formed part of a multi-room house with an associated courtyard, succeeded by levels which produced a house with a sunken white-plastered floor, enclosed by mud-brick walls.

Outside the Chalcolithic set-

tlements' domestic buildings were open-air work areas, with a variety of clay-lined pits, cobbled, gravel or clay pavements, and stone-lined fire rings. Late Chalcolithic occupations were represented by a rapid succession of beaten earth and plastered floors, associated with rectangular rooms of mudbrick walls on stone foundations.

By the Early Bronze Age I, the settlement boasted more substantial buildings of several rooms each. One building, constructed of large mud-bricks on stone foundations, had 1.2-metre-thick walls and associated beaten earth and white-plastered floors. Two oval hearths, or ovens, on an outdoor burned surface suggest this large building was used for domestic purposes. The last EB I level included the remains of a chipped stone surface associated with a 1.88-metre-wide basalt wall.

Fragments of eroded copper and slag found in a pit, alongside unusual chaff-tempered small dishes and rectangular vessels, may have been left by Tell North Shouneh craftsmen who practised small-scale metallurgy.

The lithics indicate a thriving ancient flint industry, and include arrowheads, burins, knives, scrapers, blades, retouched flakes, sickles, borers and notches.

The few other recovered cultural artifacts were several finely worked bone awls, a few small bone points, basalt grinding stones, simple stone rings and beads, fragments of ground basalt bowls, mortars and pestles, and a single, simple clay animal figurine.

Perhaps the most noteworthy result of the 1984/85 excavations was the fine sequence of pottery that has helped clarify the pattern of cultural development in, and influences between, successive communities in the north Jordan Valley and southern Syria during the 5th/4th Millennium B.C. When she started the dig, Mrs. Gustavson-Gaube wanted to shed light on the possible links between similar pottery shapes and decorations that appeared at Tell North Shouneh around 4000 B.C., but which had appeared in southern Syria as much as 500 years earlier.

The North Shouneh pottery sequence is distinguished by the introduction and subsequent dis-



North Shouneh village, looking West over Jordan Valley. Area of excavation located immediately west of the mosque

continuation of four distinct wares: a geometric painted ware, "dark-faced burnished ware," "dark-aeon ware," and "band-slipped ware." There is a striking similarity between the red-slipped, band-decorated techniques of the early 4th Millennium Chalcolithic potters of North Shouneh, and those of the mid-to-late 5th Millennium potters at the southern Syrian sites of Tell-el-Khazzami and Tell Ramad, near Damascus.

In both areas and eras, the potters produced a similar general range of pots, which they covered with a red slip and decorated preferably with applied rope-like bands or horizontal incised bands.

Based on her preliminary ceramic analyses and comparative dating, Mrs. Gustavson-Gaube hypothesises that the local Tell North Shouneh pottery tradition around 4000 B.C. was influenced by southern Syrian pottery traditions that may have developed as much as 500 years earlier.

Gradually, the Pottery Neolithic B/Chalcolithic indigenous pottery tradition at Tell North Shouneh was influenced, and ultimately replaced, by the southern Syrian tradition. The "Esdraelon wares" were then introduced into the North Shouneh assemblage, possibly as early as 3500 B.C., and finally by around 3000 B.C. "Esdraelon wares" were no longer imported, and the typical EB I pottery started to appear alongside the continuing local tradition of red-slipped/rope-decorated wares.

Based on the comparisons between the North Shouneh and southern Syrian wares, Mrs. Gustavson-Gaube feels the date of the earliest pottery at Tell North Shouneh could be pushed back to the late 5th Millennium B.C. — thereby slightly closing the time gap between the Chalcolithic pottery of southern Syria and of northern Jordan.

She suggests, finally, that the North Shouneh pottery "is part of a general northern Jordan Valley, possibly northern Jordan, cultural assemblage, assimilating and transforming traditions borrowed from their northern neighbours and continuing onwards, albeit unwittingly, to contribute to the



Workers during a rest break at Tell North Shouneh dig. Foundations of early period 5th/4th Millennium dwelling are visible in foreground

local development of what we label the Early Bronze I."

The site's ancient occupation over perhaps 1,000 years, from the late 5th Millennium to the late 4th Millennium B.C., was largely due to its location.

The site is on the north side of Wadi Arab, the perennial stream that enters the valley from the eastern plateau around Irbid. It is about three kilometres east of the Jordan River, and four kilometres south-east of the confluence of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers.

The ancient settlement straddled one of the few natural communication routes linking south Syria/north Transjordan with Palestine and the Mediterranean coast. The surrounding fertile land and the Wadi Arab's waters made this an ideal site for a substantial early farming village — which it

was for around 1,000 years, until it went out of existence for reasons that we can only guess about today.

In life and agriculture, though, nothing is forever. For the site was reoccupied during the Ayyubid/Mamluke period, when the valley supported a thriving sugar cane industry, and has come to life again during this century — when the valley has once again revived as a major agricultural production centre.

Randa Habib's Corner

Hello love, I am stuck in traffic

CARS look nicer these days in Amman. Most of them have a new small antenna with an orange round top; some have it on the centre of the trunk, others on the right or left of the rear and some have it even on the roof.

The antenna swings majestically with the wind.

That little thing, you must have guessed, is the antenna of the carphone.

Now that the price of installing a carphone has dropped from JD 3,000 to JD1,000, the general feeling is that one cannot live without it. At a red traffic light or even along the road, take a look right or left and more often than not you will find a driver, with a serious look, with one hand on the steering wheel and the other holding the telephone.

The phenomenon is not new anymore; it is considered a common fact and part of life.

People explain that they have to have a phone in their cars, because "one needs it desperately, you see." I agree that it is important for doctors, politicians and people holding important business jobs, to own a carphone, although my editor does not agree, for I believe that in cases of emergency one can reach them easier if they were in the "carphone directory."

But of course, a carphone has become something more than that in Amman. It is a fashion and status symbol. Added to a lot of other show-off gear, it looks great, you see, to drive a car decorated with that small antenna.

A woman friend explained to me how thrilled she was since her husband agreed to install one in her car. As this friend, a very sweet lady, do not work but spends most of her time visiting acquaintances, I could not but ask her: What made her think she needed a carphone?

She looked at me with an expression of surprise. "But you don't have to need something to acquire it," she asserted. "The real pleasure is in getting things you don't need. Anyhow, yesterday on my way to my parents, I had to call home because I had forgotten to turn off the radio in my bedroom."

Calling for revision of planning methods

Regional Planning and Development in Rural Communities: A Case Study of Jordan, by Mohammed M. Al-Saqour. Amman: Shukayr & Akasheh, 1986. pp. 304

IN this book, the author entertains the main hypothesis, that comprehensive regional planning has greater capability than conventional planning in achieving socio-economic development and the satisfaction of social and psychological needs in rural life. It also contributes more to the reduction of social inequality as a factor in rural underdevelopment. Derived from this general hypothesis are eleven specific hypotheses to be tested empirically: agricultural productivity, cultivated land, educational achievement, perception of rural development, social identification, social participation in voluntary associations, occupational mobility, educational mobility, knowledge of local affairs, benefit from agricultural services and rural housing, and income inequality.

Data sources include official statistics, a field survey, and interviews with regional officials. The unit of analysis for testing the hypotheses is the eastern part of the Jordan Valley. The field survey involved a random sample of farmers, drawn as a multi-stage probability sample with a size (N = 270) of all male heads of households and a mean age of 43.3 years. The data was collected by the use of an interview schedule. In addition, a semi-structured questionnaire was administered to 29 high-ranking regional officials.

It is concluded that comprehensive regional planning appears to be at its best in inducing an appreciable change in the material domains of rural life and is in need of additional strategies in order to achieve active participation in decision-making and community affairs. Furthermore, it seems to affect consistent and genuine changes over a period of several years without relapse.

It is recommended, inter alia, that the content and methods of comprehensive regional planning should be revised to allow greater emphasis on the social dimensions, as well as on introducing changes in the behaviour of farmers. Closely related to this suggestion is the recommendation of "villagisation" of rural life.



View of stratigraphic sondage at Tell North Shouneh, looking East

U.S. attacks continue to draw world criticism

(Continued from page 1)

refrain from the threat or use of force in the Gulf of Sirte.

Pope John Paul said he was worried about events in the Mediterranean and urged a prompt solution to the U.S.-Libyan confrontation.

"Public opinion is following with anxiety and concern the news of events in the Mediterranean," the Pope said at the close of his weekly general audience.

"I, too, am worried and I pray that the crisis may find a prompt, reasonable and peaceful solution. We all have a great desire for peace. We all feel a great need of peace."

About 8,000 students staged anti-American rallies in Milan and Rome, urging the United States to stop its "aggression" against Libya.

A U.S. flag was set afire by a group of demonstrators during a rally by 3,000 youths in downtown Rome.

In Milan, about 5,000 paraded outside the U.S. consulate, shouting anti-American slogans.

Some posters read "Yankies go home," "Stop aggression in the Mediterranean" and "stop war for a future of peace."

Australia joined Britain and Israel in supporting the U.S. action against Libya but urged restraint by Washington.

"Clearly the situation could lend itself to escalation and calls for a balance between protection by the United States of its forces and its interests on the one hand

and restraint on the other," Foreign Minister Bill Hayden said.

A Soviet commentator warned on Wednesday that the U.S. clash with Libyan forces "is a direct threat to world peace," but there was no hint whether or how Moscow would respond to the American confrontation with the Kremlin's ally.

U.S. embassy spokesman Jaroslav Verner said the U.S.-Libyan clash had been discussed in diplomatic contacts between Washington and Moscow, but said he could give no details.

Moscow has forcefully denounced the U.S. strikes at Libyan targets. Soviet accounts have not

repeated statements by the Pentagon that the base contained Soviet-made SA-5 and SA-2 missiles or given any indication whether Soviet personnel were on the base that was hit.

A commentator for the government news agency Novosti said Wednesday that the U.S.-Libyan clash shows the United States prefers military force over all other means when deciding "the destinies of other nations."

The Novosti comment said it appeared that some unidentified people in Washington "regard Moscow's goodwill and readiness by joint efforts to normalise the

international situation and to wipe out crisis spots, as a weakness of the Soviet Union."

"This is a dangerous delusion. The U.S. armed provocation off the coasts of Libya is a direct threat to world peace."

"The U.S. administration will bear all responsibility for the grave consequences of its latest military adventure in the Middle East," Novosti said.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry, accusing the United States of threatening Libya, said the American action had "violated the norms governing international relations."

Libya says most Arab states support Qadhafi

(Continued from page 1)

The Libyan news agency JANA quoted King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, in a telephone conversation with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on Tuesday, as saying that Saudi Arabia "put all its resources at the disposal of the Libyan people" in their defence against the Americans.

Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said in a cable to Col. Qadhafi that "we put all our financial and military resources at the disposal of the Libyan people," JANA said.

The DFLP, along with the International Federation of Labour unions in the Arab World, called

for an Arab boycott of U.S. goods and services.

The "Fateh Revolutionary Council" of Abu Nidal, an extremist Palestinian group, threatened to attack United States targets anywhere in retaliation for the U.S. attacks on Libya.

The statement, issued in Damascus, denounced the "abominable American aggression" against Libya warning that "anything American has become from now on a target for our revolutionaries."

JANA quoted George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), as saying in a statement issued in Tripoli that "the battle is not Libya's alone but a battle of all the honest, progressive and liberal

people throughout the world."

Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported that Kuwait condemned the American "aggression" against Libya and called on both parties to refrain from any military or political escalation of the situation.

"Kuwait, because of its principled and avowed attitudes toward Arab solidarity, denounces this aggression and reiterates the contents of the resolution adopted in Tunisia yesterday by the Arab League Council which reflects the collective Arab stand towards this issue," the agency said quoting what it described as an authoritative Kuwaiti source.

The 21-nation Arab League Council has condemned "the American aggression against

A ministry spokesman told a press briefing: "Since the beginning of this year, the U.S. navy has held frequent military exercises, subjecting Libya to military threats and increasing tension in the Mediterranean Sea."

The spokesman said the U.S. attack on the Libyan missile site was "in violation of the norms governing international relations. The Chinese government opposes such actions."

Neutral Austria expressed deep concern over the events in the Mediterranean and called on parties in the conflict to avoid a repetition of military action.

Libya" and called for immediate withdrawal of the U.S. Sixth Fleet from the Gulf of Sirte.

"Kuwait hopes that events will not develop in such a manner that entails any military or political escalation," the source quoted by KUNA added.

Iran's president and prime minister both pledged full support for Libya in its confrontation with the United States and discussed coordination between the two countries. Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

President Ali Khamenei cabled Col. Qadhafi to express his government's support for "the honourable resistance of the Libyan people against U.S. aggression."

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Top Soviet gymnastics officials accused of stealing, drunkenness

MOSCOW (R) — A serious scandal erupted in Soviet gymnastics Wednesday when several top officials were accused of a series of failings from drunkenness to stealing the Athletes' food.

An article in the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya also said that former World Champion Dmitry Bilozherchov had been drunk when he broke his leg while driving last year and was subsequently barred from the national team.

Much of the criticism was aimed at Yuri Titov, the head of the Gymnastics Department of the State Sports Committee, and a senior figure in the International Federation of Gymnastics.

It accused him of running a virtual dictatorship in Soviet gym-

nastics, deciding all questions himself and suppressing any attempt to criticise him.

Andrei Radionenko, coach of the Soviet national team which dominated last November's world championships in Montreal, was named as being involved in the food-stealing scandal.

The article was by Viktor Silin, secretary of the Soviet Gymnastics Federation, who said he was turning to the press because leading officials in the sport were not taking action to clean it up.

He referred to the need for "glasnost" (publicity), a key word in Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's campaign for more openness and public criticism of faults in Soviet society.

Silin said that during training for the Montreal Championships, Bilozherchov had asked for permission to drive in his car from training camp outside Moscow to his home in the city. This was given, though strictly against regulations.

He took three other gymnasts with him and on the return journey drove into a post, breaking his own leg and injuring two of the others, M. Kokorin and O. Kapetov. The world and European

champion was found to be drunk, Silin said.

Despite this, Bilozherchov was included in a list of candidates for the Soviet team drawn up recently by Titov. Only after protests from the federation were he and his colleagues, who were also drunk, banned from representing the country.

Silin said he was part of a commission which investigated reports that food meant for the gymnasts at the Ozero Krugloye Training Camp was being stolen.

Searching the refrigerator in the room of the women's team doctor, L. Kravchenko, they had discovered jars of caviar, sardines, condensed milk and sausage.

London police hold 6, seize hooligan weapons

LONDON (AP) — Police arrested six people and seized an arsenal of knives, crossbows and other weapons Wednesday in raids aimed at soccer fan violence.

Scotland Yard said the raids, code-named Operation Own Goal, capped an "intense intelligence operation" by police in the Fulham section of London, which began last November.

The investigation, using more than 40 undercover officers travelling with fans of the top-division Chelsea Club, determined "that football-related violence was being organised on a major scale by certain individuals," according to a Scotland Yard statement.

Seven homes in London and surrounding counties were raided early Wednesday, the statement said. The raiders found switchblades and fixed-blade knives, crossbows, daggers, clubs, iron bars, scalp blades and a set of spiked brass knuckles, according to authorities.

Also found was literature supporting the National Front, an extreme right-wing political group, Scotland Yard said.

Those arrested were being questioned by police. No charges were immediately filed.

Police Supt. Mike Hedges said the investigation was aided by cooperation across England, as well from Chelsea team officials.

"The improved arrangements for the flow of intelligence covering hooligans has been a positive benefit both in relation to this operation and in the curbing of hooliganism this season generally," Hedges said.

Lloyd, Navratilova, Garrison and Shriver named to U.S. team

NEW YORK (R) — Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert Lloyd, Zina Garrison and Pam Shriver have been named to the U.S. Federation Cup tennis team which will compete in Prague next July, the U.S. Tennis Association has announced.

Lloyd, who has won 42 cup matches, including 28 singles and 14 doubles, has lost only one cup match, a doubles final in 1977. Navratilova has a 5-0 record in cup play.

The inclusion of Navratilova, the top-ranked player in the world, and Lloyd marks the first time since 1982 that the top two players in the world will compete in the Federation Cup.

Czechoslovakia won the cup last year.

New blood threatens Brazilian stars

By Sergio Leitao
Raufer

RIO DE JANEIRO — Two Brazilian 20-year-olds who read the Bible and brand rock n' roll as the devil's music could explode on to the international football scene in the World Cup in Mexico.

Midfielder Silas and striker Muller — who takes his name from West German Gerd Mueller — may lack the experience of Socrates, Eder and Falcao but their talent, youth and physical fitness could leave a couple of big names watching the action from the substitutes' bench.

"I'm young but I know exactly what my objectives are," said Silas. "I don't want to go to Mexico as a tourist... I want to be in the team when we play Spain on June 1."

Silas' Sao Paulo teammate Muller credits their motivation to coach Tele Santana's promise that no player would receive special privileges based on past achievements.

"When you know you're fighting a fair fight, everything depends on how you handle the situation. You must prove yourself," Muller explained.

Former Brazilian coach Joao Saldanha is all in favour of giving youth a chance in Mexico and has said that if he were in Santana's place he would field a side built round the Sao Paulo players.

"When Brazil won the World Cup in 1958, 1962 and 1970, San-

tos and Bôtafoogo, the best teams in those days, provided the backbone of the sides," Saldanha recalled.

"Why not do it again this time using the majority of the Sao Paulo players?"

Sao Paulo are widely regarded as Brazil's strongest club side at present and provided seven players to Santana's preliminary 29-man list — goalkeeper Gilmar, defender Oscar, midfielders Falcao and Silas, and strikers Careca, Sidney and Muller.

Despite their failure to make an impact in the recent defeats against Hungary and West Germany, Silas has looked as composed as the veterans in training while Muller, deputising for the injured Zico, has shown daily improvement in practice.

Both youngsters are members of a religious movement called "Christ's Athletes" which was formed a few years ago by a group of Brazilian professional footballers.

"I credit my success to God, he is my guide," Muller told an interviewer seeking the reason for his meteoric rise.

The two players first made the headlines last year when they were instrumental in Brazil's World Youth Cup triumph in the Soviet Union, where Muller was his side's top scorer and Silas won the man of the tournament award.

It is too early to predict which line-up Santana will opt for against Spain in Guadalajara and a number of positions are clearly up

for grabs. There appears little to choose between Leao and Carlos for the goalkeeper's jersey. Leao, a veteran of three World Cups is the slight favourite, though Carlos, a reserve in 1978 and 1982, has been outstanding in training.

Right-back Leandro, who escaped the axe last month after a breach of discipline, is assured of the number two shirt providing he avoids injury and central defender Oscar is a near-certainty to appear in his third World Cup.

Oscar's partner in the heart of the defence will be either Mozer or Italian-exile Edinho, while Junior, starting for Torino in Italy in midfield, is likely to revert to his former position at left-back.

Should Santana decide he needs Junior's strength in midfield, Fluminense's 21-year-old Branco would step into the fullback slot. Brazil's dazzling 1982 midfield quartet of Toninho Cerezo, Falcao, Socrates and Zico — all over 30 — may well be split up.

It is almost inconceivable that Zico and Toninho Cerezo will be jettisoned but it would come as no surprise if Santana preferred Silas and Alemão to Socrates and Falcao. For the moment, however, what is in Santana's mind regarding his midfield remains a secret.

In attack, Santana will have to choose between Careca and Casagrande for the central striker's role while Muller could be used as a roving attacker because of his speed.

NBC pays \$300m to cover Olympics

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — NBC Television Wednesday signed a contract to pay \$300 million for sole U.S. broadcasting rights for the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in South Korea.

The contract was signed by representatives of NBC, the Seoul Organising Committee and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), IOC officials said.

The signing had been due to take place on Dec. 6, but was delayed by a row over "boycott insurance" to provide a partial refund if any major competitors pulled out.

The U.S. led a boycott of the Moscow Summer Olympic Games in 1980 to protest against the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Moscow returned the gesture by

leading a boycott of the Los Angeles Summer Games in 1984.

North Korea has threatened to boycott the 1988 games unless it is allowed to play co-host, and Moscow has criticised the choice of South Korea, with which it has no diplomatic relations.

Olympic Committee officials said NBC was granted a general clause permitting renegotiation of its payment were any event to lower the value of the games.

A similar clause was in an American Broadcasting Company (ABC) contract for Los Angeles coverage but was never used as the games were profitable despite the Soviet boycott. ABC paid \$225 million to broadcast those games.

The record for Olympic coverage, \$309 million, was signed by

ABC for the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada, the officials said.

The signing of the U.S. rights, the largest regional contract for the games, cleared the way for negotiations on the contracts for West Europe, East Europe, South America, Australia, Japan and other areas.

South and North Korea are due to hold a third round of talks in Lausanne on June 10-11. The IOC has sent a detailed agenda for the talks to both sides but has had no response, Olympic officials said.

North Korea wants the games split between the two countries but South Korea has shown little interest in anything more than a token gesture towards the North.

McGuigan to defend title in Las Vegas

DUBLIN (AP) — Barry McGuigan will defend his World Boxing Association (WBA) featherweight championship against Argentina's Fernando Sosa in Las Vegas on June 23, officials said Wednesday.

The winner must then meet No. 1 contender Antonio Esparragoza of Venezuela within 90 days.

It will be McGuigan's third title defence and his first outside of Britain or Ireland.

"Barry has always wanted to fight in the United States," said Barney Eastwood, the champion's

manager, who conducted negotiations in New York last week.

Sosa was originally scheduled to meet McGuigan, of Ireland, here on Feb. 15 but withdrew when he fractured the index finger of his left hand in a sparring session.

McGuigan fought Danilo Cabrera on the Dominican Republic as a fill-in and scored a 14th-round knockout.

McGuigan won the championship last June in London

with a decision over Panama's Eusebio Pedroza, then beat Bernard Taylor of Knoxville, Tenn., in the seventh round last Sept. 25.

The McGuigan-Sosa bout will be on a card with a fight between light-middleweight champion Mike McCallum and welterweight champion Don Curry for McCallum's WBA Crown, and a Middleweight match between Roberto Duran and Robbie Sims.

Jordan Times Tel: 666320

CENTRAL TENDER No. 5/86

Construction of the compulsory schools/ The Sixth Education Project.

The contractors who had been qualified previously for the Sixth Education Project and willing to participate in the following bid are requested to get bid documents from the project directorate, Ministry of Education from 22/3/1986 with the following conditions:-

1. The Sixth Education Project is partially financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the compulsory schools were divided into ten groups and this tender buildings constitute the tenth group, which is the last group.

2. Description of the announced tender:
No. 5/86 which include the construction of compulsory schools at the following sites:
Madaba, Al Jameel with an approximate area of 8180 m².

3. Prices of the documents and tender bond as follow:

Tender No.	Price	Tender Bond
5/86	JD 250	JD 30,000

4. Last date for receiving copy of tender is 3/5/1986.

5. Last date of submission of offers is 12 O'clock 10/5/1986 at the Department of Government Tender Directorate.

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Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30

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Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

جالي في ليل

World Bank says '85 may have been major turning point for indebted states

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank said Wednesday that 1985 may have been a "fundamental turning point" for the international community in dealing with the three-year-old debt crisis.

In a report accompanying its closely-watched annual world debt tables, the bank said that the global economic community determined towards the end of 1985 that debtor countries could not repay their huge loans unless they were allowed to grow.

The report also said that debt owed by developing countries continued to grow last year, albeit more slowly than originally expected, and will reach a total of \$1,001 billion by the end of 1986.

Of this total, the bank said \$815 billion is in long-term debt, of which 60 per cent will be owed to private sources, including commercial banks. The remainder is short-term obligations.

The bank, in describing the new approach to the debt problem, said one major indication was the debt initiative put forward by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker last autumn.

The initiative calls for \$20 billion in new commercial bank lending and \$9 billion in the loans from development banks, led by the World Bank.

However, it calls for major reform action by the developing countries in return for aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and commercial banks.

In its report, the bank said that the "troubled debtor economies must continue to adjust to mobilise more resources for investment, to adapt to patterns of production and consumption to stem capital flight."

Turning to its financial tables, the report said that long-term debt service payments in 1985 exceeded disbursements of new long-term lending by some \$22 billion, up from \$14 billion the year before.

The average interest rate on new loans to developing countries last year is estimated to have fallen to around eight per cent. This compares with a whopping average of 11.4 per cent in 1981, the year before the debt crisis surfaced.

The report also said that the industrial countries have a major role to play in healing the international economic system so that debtor countries can grow.

"Industrial countries must establish the conditions for sustainable, non-inflationary growth, including adequate growth of their own economies, lower interest rates and unfettered trade," the bank said.

It also said new outside funds are needed for the debtor countries if they are to "implement policy changes while servicing their debt."

Debtor countries complain that they have imposed major austerity measures to cool their economies in accordance with international pressures, but this has become very difficult politically.

They argue that tough austerity action must be accompanied by new assistance that allows growth.

Cheaper oil prices alone will not restore prosperity to world economy, GATT says

GENEVA (Agencies) — Slumping oil prices will cut costs for importers and should improve international trade — which grew only slightly last year — but this alone seems unlikely to restore the prosperity of earlier decades, the world trade body GATT said Thursday.

In its annual assessment of world trade and economic developments in 1985, the secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) said lower oil costs could help importers and stimulate investment.

But it added: "The lower price of petroleum by itself will not put the world economy back on the prosperous growth path of 1980-1973."

The combination of sharply lower oil prices, declining interest rates and the depreciation of the dollar would force the world's economies to adjust, it said, urging countries to resist protectionist trade barriers and subsidies.

The GATT report said overall world trade in 1985 expanded by three per cent in volume. But if the decline in the exchange rate of the dollar was taken into account,

growth was less than one per cent, it said.

This was a sharp drop compared with 1984, when world trade grew by nine per cent in volume terms and 5.5 per cent in dollar terms.

World exports were estimated at \$1,910 billion last year, below the 1981 peak of \$1,960 billion, GATT said.

The organisation said last year's economic decline might turn out to have been just a "pause" after which the growth of world commerce would accelerate again.

The volume of world trade could increase by between four and five per cent this year, it said.

Commenting on 1985, GATT said it was "not uncommon for a year of particularly strong trade expansion to be followed by a distinct slowdown in the growth rate of world trade."

While the fall in oil prices red-

uced costs for oil importers, it would hurt countries selling goods to oil exporters as the latter's purchasing power would fall due to the drop in oil prices, it said.

Imports by the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had already fallen steadily from \$145 billion in 1983 to \$128 billion in 1984 and \$112 billion last year, the report said.

It said oil and oil products, which accounted for 15 per cent of world trade, made up more than 90 per cent of the export revenue of 10 major oil exporters, including many Middle East states and heavily indebted Venezuela.

But for Britain and China, the figure was only about 20 per cent, it noted.

The report showed that agricultural and mining product exports went down in volume by 2.5 per cent and three per cent respectively, while those of manufactured goods showed an improvement of five per cent, compared to 12 per cent in 1984.

For primary commodities other than fuel, price declines were fairly widespread in all major export

regions, prices declining both in terms of the dollar and Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).

GATT said the decline in Third World trade was due to both lower levels of South-South and North-South exchanges.

In inter-regional terms, trade between Socialist countries and the rest of the world fell by seven per cent over 1984, while that among industrialised countries expanded by only five per cent, compared to nine per cent the year before.

Exports from industrialised and Socialist countries to the Third World and within themselves fell by up to seven per cent, and Third World exports to the industrialised world declined by four per cent.

Overall South-South and North-South trade fell by seven and five per cent respectively.

The South East Asian region was particularly hard hit, with exports declining by two per cent and imports by six per cent, against growth rates of 17 and three per cent registered in 1984.

The 16 most heavily indebted countries were constrained to cut

imports and make painful economic adjustments, with both exports and imports falling by four per cent each.

A GATT expert, commenting on the report, said falling oil prices were "a real smack in the face" for oil exporters, particularly indebted developing countries whose difficulties in repaying loans would be aggravated.

GATT said the United States, Japan and West Germany — the world's leading oil importers — also topped the list of main industrial exporters to oil producers in 1984. It said no detailed statistics were available yet for last year.

Exports to oil producers accounted for about 14 per cent of all U.S. exports in 1984. For Japan, the figure was 11 per cent, and for West Germany eight per cent.

Other leading exporters to oil producers were France, Italy, Britain, Canada, Brazil, Yugoslavia and Finland.

Oil exports by the Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer, were estimated to be worth nearly \$38 billion in 1984. This was 40 per cent of all Soviet exports, GATT said.

China to cut trade gap, fight corruption

PEKING (R) — China announced plans Wednesday to reduce a big trade deficit, fight waste and tax fraud and cut the defence share of the national budget.

Finance Minister Wang Binggao told the National People's Congress, China's equivalent of a parliament, that the government aimed for a balanced budget this

year after achieving a surplus in 1985 for the first time since 1978.

In a continuation of a campaign against corruption which followed the loosening of economic regulations, he promised tighter vetting of public funds used to combat problems of tax evasion and wasteful expenditure.

He attacked "a few units and a

small number of cadres" who had diverted state funds for private use, set up sham corporations, claimed unauthorised tax exemptions or transferred commodities and subsidies to relatives, friends and business connections.

Mr. Wang said \$6.25 billion would be spent on defence, up in absolute terms on last year's \$5.8 billion, but down from \$11.9 to \$9.3 per cent of the total budget.

Western military sources said the official figure underestimated the real level of defence spending because items such as weapons research were not included.

They said the cut in defence's share of the budget was likely to increase discontent among the military who were adjusting with difficulty to the government's edict to reduce the armed forces by one million people.

Mr. Wang said the draft state budget balanced revenue and expenditure at \$70 billion. This followed an \$875 million surplus last year after moves to boost revenue and curb spending in an over-reached economy.

Mr. Song Ping, minister of the State Planning Commission, said China would export more and import less this year compared with 1985 when the country suffered a trade deficit estimated by customs statistics at \$14 billion.

Mr. Song said total trade this year should amount to \$56.8 billion, down from \$59.2 billion last year. He gave no breakdown for imports and exports.

Retail sales should rise by 12 per cent to \$150 billion, but use of foreign exchange should be kept under strict centralised control, Mr. Song said.

Premier Zhao Ziyang Tuesday vowed to boost living standards for China's one billion people while striving to weed out corruption and inefficiency in the country's economy.

Egypt is planning more comprehensive reforms

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Central Bank Governor Ali Negm said Wednesday that new government measures to cut the budget deficit were a step towards a more comprehensive reform package now in the pipeline.

The measures announced Tuesday by Prime Minister Ali Lutfi included further public spending cuts, higher duties on cars, an exit tax on travel, higher telephone charges and tax collecting reforms.

Mr. Negm, in an interview with Reuters, said he hoped to issue \$800 million in U.S. dollar-denominated bonds over the next year to generate foreign currency. They will be the first such bonds floated publicly by Egypt since 1977.

He said the government expected to generate 600 million Egyptian pounds (\$723 million) if the tax administration was reformed with parliamentary approval. Higher telephone charges would raise \$100 million.

Mr. Lutfi said the measures, which kept intact prices of basic goods and commodities, were designed to reduce the current net deficit of 900 million pounds (\$1.1 billion) in the financial year starting in July.

Mr. Negm called the government measures a "step forward in the right direction" and said: "The package has not yet been fully announced. Only the broad lines have been discussed and some of the other measures have to go to parliament."

The Egyptian press has speculated that harsher measures will be implemented to make up for a sharp drop in oil revenue, lower income from tourism and a decline

in remittances from Egyptians abroad.

The loss from oil revenue alone is forecast at \$1.2 billion for the next financial year.

"People were ready to accept more and yesterday's announcement was a psychological play," Mr. Negm said. "The reform package will come later, I hope within no more than a month."

Mr. Negm said the package would await talks he expected to hold in Washington next week with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), adding Egypt would probably request a standby agreement of \$1 billion, not \$1.5 billion as reported previously.

The IMF and the United States, Egypt's main creditors, have urged the government to simplify its multi-tiered exchange rate system and cut subsidies.

"The exchange rate problem is a killing issue," Mr. Negm said. "We need the IMF's technical and physical support."

Mr. Negm said parliament would discuss the exchange rate, but he did not indicate what immediate measure could be expected.

There are currently five different exchange rates in use in Egypt, ranging from 0.40 pounds to the dollar for trade with the Soviet Bloc to a free market rate of 1.81.

The pound is pegged to the dollar in IMF books at 0.70, a rate also used for government book-keeping. The official rate is 0.83 and a "floating" central bank rate, set daily, moves around 1.55 to the dollar.

Egypt's budget deficit for 1984/85 was forecast at \$5.9 billion.

Philippines begins attempt to repatriate Marcos' millions held in Switzerland

BERNE (R) — Philippine officials began attempts Wednesday to recover assets held here by ousted president Ferdinand Marcos and frozen by Swiss authorities in an unprecedented and highly controversial move Tuesday.

A government spokesman said a delegation led by special envoy, Mr. Pedro Yap, held preliminary talks with foreign ministry officials on ways of repatriating the money, which unconfirmed reports say could be as high as \$800 million.

The talks, billed as merely "an exchange of information," would be followed by contacts with justice ministry officials, the spokesman said.

The decision to freeze the assets, the first ever such move by Bern, has been attacked by bankers and some commentators as politically motivated and compromising Switzerland's standing as an international banking centre.

However, government sources said attempts to recover the money would be greatly helped by Wednesday's announcement by the Commission for Good Government in Manila that it would file charges against Marcos of criminal misuse of government funds.

Under Switzerland's strict banking law, secrecy surrounding accounts can only be lifted if it is alleged their holder is guilty of offences which would also be considered illegal under Swiss law.

Despite reports of millions stashed away by the former president here, Swiss banks have used this law as grounds to refuse to acknowledge the existence of any such accounts.

The commission of which Mr. Yap is a member was set up to

look into the massive overseas assets allegedly owned by Marcos, who fled with his family last month after 20 years of rule.

It has so far frozen an estimated three billion pesos (\$150 million) of Philippine assets of Marcos and his associates worldwide.

The Swiss government called its freeze "a precautionary measure" in the national interest which was ordered after attempts were made to withdraw some of money held here.

Critics, although acknowledging the government was under some international pressure not to appear to help Marcos by doing nothing, have attacked the way the freeze was ordered before Manila announced legal proceedings.

Only if the sums involved turned out to be enormous could the move be seen as justified, Mr. Baer said.

Mr. Joerg Neef, spokesman for Credit Suisse, said Switzerland's financial reputation was at stake.

"We have a long tradition of liberal capital transfers. The fact that someone could always be sure of having access to his funds was a big plus for the Swiss financial centre," he said.

Ms. Yves Sohrmann of Swiss Bank Corporation in Basle added: "The general public in Switzerland will have welcomed the government's decision but it must be seen as negative for Switzerland as a financial centre."

"Every private customer — and not just the rich potentates — will be aware of the possibility that such steps could be taken to block their funds." However, he conceded that a request for legal assistance by Manila would make little sense if funds slipped away in the meantime.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4625/35	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.4025/30	Canadian dollars
	2.3500/10	West German marks
	2.6525/40	Dutch guilders
	1.9680/95	Swiss francs
	46.08/13	Belgian francs
	7.2325/75	French francs
	1597/1598	Italian lire
	180.43/53	Japanese yen
	7.3850/3950	Swedish crowns
	7.3000/3100	Norwegian crowns
	8.6625/6700	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	344.75/345.25	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed near best levels achieved in early trading, in a sharp technical reaction to the previous two days profit-taking, dealers said.

Early gains reflected further consideration of Tuesday's company results, together with firmer sterling. Support was also given by some better than expected company figures and an optimistic confederation of British industry survey. Light profit-taking later gave way to buying interest helped by Wall Street's firmer trend. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index was 19.4 up at 1,653.2 after 1,665.2.

Most sectors participated in the advance and among a batch of companies to announce results Lucas ended 38p firmer at 651 and BAT 15p up at 396, both with figures above market expectations. BICC finished 5p higher at 335 after results in line with expectations, dealers said.

ICI ended a penny up at 952, Glaxo added 12p at 1,032, Hawker Siddeley rose 6p to 593, Vickers advanced 7p to 475 while Beecham lost a penny at 360. Fisons put on 34p to 575 after a presentation on a new drug. Government bonds rose as much as 1 1/4 points with firmer sterling, dealers added. Banks firmed as much as 25p in Lloyds at 657.

THE Daily Crossword by Judson G. Trent

ACROSS

1. Aboit heroism
2. "I've — Secret"
3. Olden
4. Collections of miscellany
5. Gollwog
6. Cien
7. Derby entrant
8. Afternoon affairs
9. Poetic last
10. Lily kin
11. "Farewell to Arms" author
12. Elk
13. Stuffy
14. Decorous
15. Cranny
16. Sliding rod
17. Inquiry
18. Heb. month
19. Met staple
20. Riddle in play
21. Chanticleer
22. Ambler or Bion
23. Soliloquy's start
24. "Thereby hangs —"
25. Hoop
26. Pochontas' mate
27. Puerto
28. Gan. Putnam
29. "White England"
30. Sleepy Dutton
31. Stout's Wille
32. Soprano
33. Tetrastyl
34. Touched ground
35. Pisa's river
36. Enoch —
37. Women in law
38. Osculate
39. Sanctified
40. Flintstone
41. Sumner Pl.

DOWN

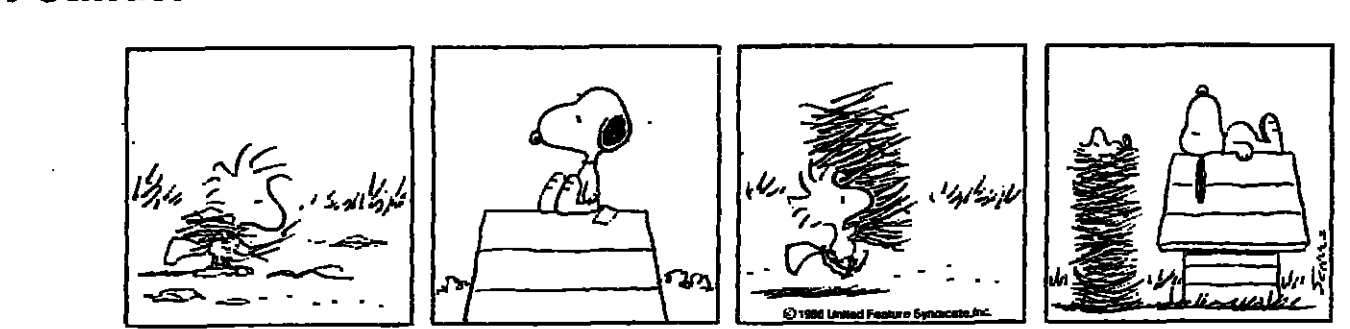
1. Perot
2. Gay
3. Lively old dance
4. Type of vowel
5. Cynus recta
6. Took a hike
7. Odin, Tyr et al.
8. Mark of disgrace
9. Crop
10. Fissure
11. Me Dutton
12. Architect
13. I. M. —
14. "Sweet Thursday" author
15. Part of TNT
16. Layer
17. Nimbus
18. "Doctor Zhivago" author
19. Kind of bread
20. Henry James biographer
21. Commoner in old Rome
22. — avis
23. Regretful miles
24. Macc. pref.
25. Left
26. Claude
27. Kitchen item
28. Knight
29. Slang lightly
30. Bantler
31. Home on high
32. Part of Can.
33. Painter Max
34. Fine
35. Ringlet
36. Cache
37. Partalee
38. — rickety
39. Part of Can.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS	DOWN
1. Aboit heroism	1. Perot
2. "I've — Secret"	2. Gay
3. Olden	3. Lively old dance
4. Collections of miscellany	4. Type of vowel
5. Gollwog	5. Cynus recta
6. Cien	6. Took a hike
7. Derby entrant	7. Odin, Tyr et al.
8. Afternoon affairs	8. Mark of disgrace
9. Poetic last	9. Crop
10. Lily kin	10. Fissure
11. "Farewell to Arms" author	11. Me Dutton
12. Elk	12. Architect
13. Stuffy	13. I. M. —
14. Decorous	14. "Sweet Thursday" author
15. Cranny	15. Part of TNT
16. Sliding rod	16. Layer
17. Inquiry	17. Nimbus
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29. "White England"	29. Slang lightly
30. Sleepy Dutton	30. Bantler
31. Stout's Wille	31. Home on high
32. Soprano	32. Part of Can.
33. Tetrastyl	33. Painter Max
34. Touched ground	34. Fine
35. Pisa's river	35. Ringlet
36. Enoch —	36. Cache
37. Women in law	37. Partalee
38. Osculate	38. — rickety
39. Sanctified	39. Part of Can.
40. Flintstone	
41. Sumner Pl.	

Horoscope not received

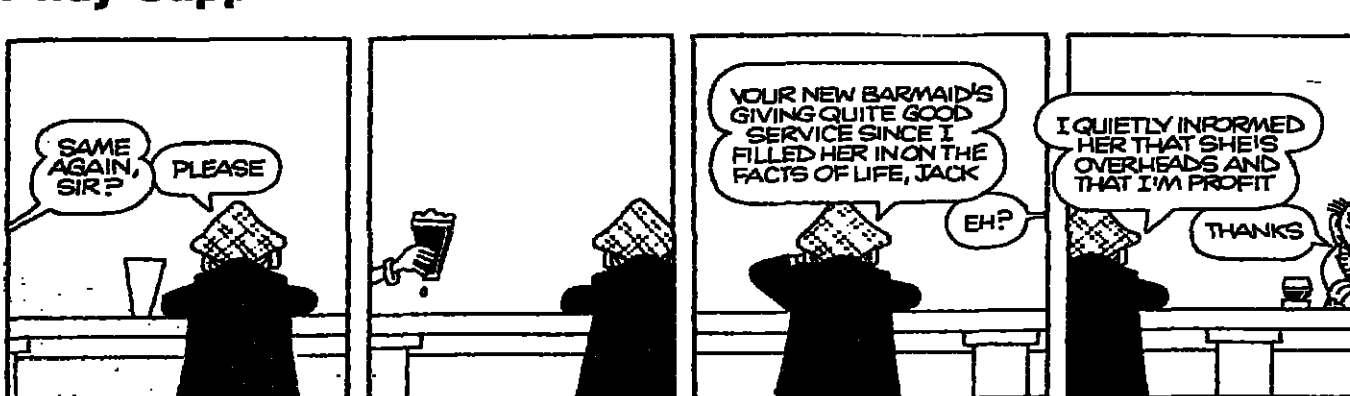
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF By Harris



"Stanley's really into the holiday spirit of giving. Last night he gave me a migraine."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MOTEC

STRYT

THIBLE

BLOSMY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ENEMY WHEAT HYBRID POPLAR

Answer: She always throws away his socks when they're not this — WORTH A DARN

U.S. organises airlift of Honduran troops to border

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — A spokesman for the U.S. embassy here said Tuesday that the United States was aiding in the organisation of an airlift of Honduran troops to the tense border with Nicaragua.

Embassy spokesman Arthur Skop telephoned international news media to say he had been mistaken when he reported earlier that the deployment had begun.

Honduras said Tuesday it had been granted U.S. assistance in airlifting troops to the tense frontier with Nicaragua to drive out a Nicaraguan invasion force.

Mr. Skop declined to say when the airlift would begin, citing security reasons.

Tension along the border rose after the White House accused the left-wing government of Nicaragua of having launched a "large-scale" attack on camps, training centres and hospital facilities on the Honduran side of the border.

A Honduran government communiqué read by spokesman Lizandro Quezada said: "Because land access (to the mountainous

province of Olancho) is very difficult and because there is an urgent necessity for the presence of national forces in the area, the necessary support for the air transport of troops has been obtained from the government of the United States."

In Washington, meanwhile, Mr. Reagan approved an emergency \$20 million in aid for Honduras in what the White House termed a response to an urgent appeal Monday from Honduran President Jose Azcona.

Honduran government officials frequently complain, at least in private, that the U.S. government has failed to reward Honduras for allowing Nicaraguan anti-government rebels to operate from its territory.

Gen. John Galvin, commander of the Panama-based Southern Command, arrived here Tuesday,

the U.S. embassy said.

Mr. Skop said Gen. Galvin had been ordered to Honduras by Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger "to establish what kind of military help Honduras needs."

The Honduran government said it had sent a note to Nicaragua asking the leadership there to "order the immediate withdrawal of its troops to avoid clashes which could endanger peace between the two countries."

Independent accounts of the situation along the border were not available and foreign diplomats in the two capitals said they had no confirmed details of troop deployments.

U.S. officials in Tegucigalpa said that American military personnel involved in the deployment of Honduran troops had strict instructions to avoid being drawn into combat.

According to the U.S. embassy, there are some 4,000 U.S. troops in Honduras at the moment as part of a series of joint military manoeuvres which have been conducted almost without inter-

ruption for the past three years.

Western diplomats say around 8,000 U.S.-backed rebels are in position on the Honduran side of the frontier, the majority of them driven back to their camps over the past few months by a determined Nicaraguan counter-insurgency offensive.

Nicaragua has announced that thousands of its troops are sweeping the northern border in pursuit of the U.S.-backed rebels, but the government denies that its army has crossed into Honduras.

At a news conference Tuesday night in Managua, Army Chief Joaquin Cuadra said: "Reagan wants everyone to think Nicaragua is invading Honduras, but those who are invading Honduras are the Contras and the North American army."

"There is no Nicaraguan invasion. We've never thought of invading Honduras."

Cuadra said that in recent days there had been seven "very big" skirmishes close to the border but gave no details.

5 Sikh militants die in Punjab crackdown

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — Police shot dead five Sikh militants, wounded 15 and put a sixth Punjab town under curfew Wednesday as violence again rocked the north Indian state.

Police opened fire in the town of Anandpur Sahib when 2,500 militants tried to disrupt a meeting attended by Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, head of the ruling moderate Sikh party, the Akali Dal.

A police spokesman said five people died and 15 were wounded, five seriously, in the shooting.

He said the order to fire was given when baton charges, a tear gas barrage, and rubber bullets failed to break up the militants.

Anandpur Sahib, an historical Sikh town about 80 kilometres north of the Punjab state capital Chandigarh, was immediately put under an indefinite curfew.

Five other Punjab towns have been put under curfew in the past 10 days to stop violence between Sikh militants and rightwing Hindus angered by the prolonged Sikh violence.

The order to open fire was regarded as part of a get-tough policy by Mr. Barnala's government to end a growing wave of militant opposition.

Police also opened fire last Friday in Chandigarh when militants tried to storm the State Assembly killing two people and wounding 37.

Police Tuesday arrested four militant leaders on sedition charges. The arrests were believed to be the first detention of militant leaders since Mr. Barnala took power last September.

In a two-week surge of violence, more than 30 people have died in clashes involving extremists wanting a separate Sikh state in Punjab and security forces.

Police said trouble broke out in Anandpur Sahib when the militants tried to march on a function attended by Mr. Barnala to mark the spring festival of Holi.

The militants wanted to protest against the arrest of the four leaders detained Tuesday.

Police said after the firing the militants went on a rampage. They set several vehicles and police tents on fire and tried to burn down the town railway station.

Anandpur Sahib, with a normal 20,000 population, was packed with up to 150,000 pilgrims who traditionally celebrate the spring festival there.

The town is where the Sikh's 10th and last guru or saint, Gobind Singh, turned the sect into a warrior race in the 17th century.

U.S. probes \$81m in missing Philippine aid

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration has told Congress it cannot yet account for the spending of \$81.3 million in aid to the Philippines from the United States over the last 15 months.

The money, in the form of economic aid, came under the supervision of former first lady Imelda Marcos, according to letters released to Reuters Tuesday.

Representative Dave Obey, chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Aid, said the panel would not recommend 1987 assistance to the Philippines until it receives "a full accounting of this situation" from the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID).

He said a March 20 letter he received from AID Administrator Peter McPherson "indicates that only \$11.2 million of the \$92.5 million in funds deposited (in the Philippine Central Bank) during the past two Decembers have been disbursed."

Mrs. Marcos was chairman of the Economic Support Funds Committee in the Philippines, which was in charge of programmes funded by the AID money.

"Instead of verifying what has happened to the money... (the letter) leaves the issue open" and creates concerns that Marcos and his wife used the AID for personal gain, the Wisconsin Democrat said in a letter to Mr. McPherson.

Yugoslav document lists Waldheim as war criminal

BELOGRADE (R) — The leading Yugoslav newspaper Vecernje Novosti Wednesday published what it said was a facsimile document listing former U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim as a wanted war criminal.

The Yugoslav War Crimes Commission document dated Dec. 18, 1947, said Dr. Waldheim was wanted in connection with murders, massacres, shooting of hostages and destruction of property.

In an accompanying article the newspaper said it obtained the document Tuesday from Yugoslav archives.

The document described Dr. Waldheim as a man "on the run."

The newspaper, saying the document was seven pages long, reproduced the first page in facsimile. This contained a brief personal profile of Dr. Waldheim.

The newspaper said other pages accused Dr. Waldheim not only of belonging to a German unit that committed war crimes on Yugoslav territory but also of issuing orders.

The first page summarised the alleged crimes with which it said Dr. Waldheim was connected during World War II.

It spoke of "murder, slaughter, shooting of hostages, intentional demolition and destruction of property, burning of villages, and similar acts."

In Vienna, a spokesman for Dr. Waldheim said he was unaware of such a document and was unable to comment before examining the allegations in detail.

Dr. Waldheim, 67, Tuesday rejected as "pure lies" charges from the World Jewish Congress (WJC) in New York that he had been an intelligence officer in the German army and involved in brutal operations against Yugoslav Partisans.

Austrian foreign minister from 1968 to 1970 and U.N. secretary general from 1972 to 1982, Dr. Waldheim is campaigning to be elected Austrian president on May 4.

Ershad marks independence with pledge for democracy

DHAKA (R) — President Hosain Mohammad Ershad marked Bangladesh's 15th anniversary of independence Wednesday with the pledge that democracy would soon be restored.

"All is now set for the parliamentary vote on May 7 designed to restore democracy in Bangladesh ending four years of military rule," he said in a message.

Anniversary celebrations were marred by fighting between groups supporting and opposing the elections. They battled with sticks and stones outside a martyrs' memorial at Savar, 30 kilometres from Dhaka, where hundreds of people were laying wreaths.

Efforts were under way to mend rifts between the main opposition groups over whether to take part in the poll.

Four small parties deserted the main 15-party alliance, headed by Sheikh Hasina Wajed, over its decision to contest the election.

"The decision was conspiratorial and a breach of trust," said Rashed Khan Menon, a leader of the breakaway factions.

Hasina Wajed said her group agreed to join the polls only after Gen. Ershad removed military commanders from civilian jobs, abolished military courts and dropped ministers contesting the election from his cabinet to ensure free polls.

Sabah peace plan runs into trouble

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia (R) A plan to end sectarian strife between Muslims and Christians in Sabah has run into trouble following a dispute among Christian leaders, political analysts said Wednesday.

The plan, proposed by federal Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohammad on Monday, involves Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan of the ruling Christian Kadazan Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS), remaining chief minister of the east Malaysian state.

Five people have been killed, about 20 injured and hundreds imprisoned in two weeks of rioting, bombings and arson by radical Muslims protesting against Mr. Pairin's alleged anti-Islam stance, which Mr. Pairin has denied.

Mr. Mahathir had separate talks on the plan with Mr. Pairin, Tun Mustapha Harun, leader of the

opposition Muslim United Sabah National Organisation (USNO) and Datuk Mohammad Noor Mansor, head of the federally backed Berjaya Berjaya Party. The three leaders had agreed in principle to Mr. Mahathir's proposal.

But analysts said PBS leaders were divided on a proposal to share power with Muslim leaders. Senior PBS members wanted the plan changed to give them an upper hand, they added.

USNO and Berjaya leaders are in Kuala Lumpur for further talks and a joint meeting had been planned there between Mr. Mahathir and Sabah's Christian and Muslim leaders.

A PBS delegation left for Kuala Lumpur Wednesday but members said they needed more time to talk to Mr. Mahathir who heads the 11-party ruling multiracial Nat-

ional Front Coalition.

The Muslim-Christian strife erupted after Mr. Pairin dissolved the state assembly after being in power for 10 months to pave the way for fresh elections after a spate of defections to the opposition.

Mr. Tun Mustapha has filed a writ in court challenging Mr. Pairin's rule and judgment is expected on April 15. But under the peace plan all court cases must be dropped. Mr. Mustapha has said he was prepared to drop the suit if Muslims had a share of power in the state.

Police said they planned to further relax curfew hours imposed since Wednesday in Kota Kinabalu after the rioting as no fresh incidents have been reported.

Sabah is the only one of Malaysia's 13 states not ruled by a Muslim government.

Shultz starts talks as Greece attacks U.S. over Libya

ATHENS (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz began talks at the Greek Foreign Ministry Wednesday as the ruling Socialist Party attacked American action against Libya as an "attempt to create a holocaust."

"We are sure that we express the feeling of all Greek people when we condemn unequivocally this attempt to create a holocaust in the Mediterranean," said the Pasok (Socialist) Party's Committee for International Relations in a statement.

It spoke of "militaristic actions by the American superpower" which "set dynamite to" peace and sought to do away with Libya's right to national independence.

"The people of the Mediterranean will not tolerate the imposition by force of 'Pax Americana.' They want to live peacefully and they are capable of consolidating their national dignity and sovereignty," the statement said.

Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, the founder and president of Pasok, has made a distinction in the past between the positions of the party and government.

The government issued a mild statement Tuesday that spoke out against "provocations and clashes" without saying who it thought was guilty of them.

The statement was broadcast in full over state-run radio as Mr. Shultz held meetings with Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias and Greek diplomats.

Mr. Shultz's talks with Mr. Papoulias were expected to focus on the question of guerrilla violence as well as efforts to improve hitherto troubled Greek-American ties and international questions including East-West relations.

Mr. Shultz also wants to clarify the future of U.S. bases here.

Mr. Papandreu has hinted he will back down on earlier pledges to close the U.S. bases in Greece by 1990, but he says they cannot be used against Libya, which Greece considers a friend.

Remains of some astronauts said to be identified

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Pathologists have identified the remains of some of the seven astronauts who died when the space shuttle Challenger exploded moments after lift-off on Jan. 28, sources have said.

The sources, who are close to the Challenger probe, said the grim task of examining the astronauts' fragmented body parts, hauled up over the past two weeks from the wreckage of the crew cabin, could take several more weeks to complete.

The space agency has refused to comment on the recovery of astronaut remains from the Atlantic off of deference to the wishes of the crew's families.

But a space agency source said some kind of "ceremony of respect" would be held at Kennedy Space Centre before the remains are turned over to the families for burial.

New Hampshire Schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe and six crew mates died in the worst space disaster ever.

An astronaut has been assigned to each of the fallen crew members' families as a "casualty as-

stance officer" to brief them on the progress of the pathologists' work and the ocean recovery operation. NASA officials said.

The space agency has kept a tight lid of secrecy on the examination of the remains by a team of military pathologists working at the Cape Canaveral air force station laboratory. The experts are using dental and medical records, bone X-rays and blood samples to identify the mangled body parts.

Salvage officials said sonar images indicated more wreckage of Challenger's crew cabin in 30 metres of water 26 kilometres north east of Cape Canaveral, but they are uncertain whether any more crew remains will be found at the site.

Choppy seas, strong winds and poor visibility forced divers to halt efforts to bring up crew cabin debris Tuesday, and most of the salvage fleet was ordered to return to port.

About 75 per cent of the crew cabin was recovered during four previous trips to the site, salvage officials said.

Air Force Col. Edward O'Can-

nor, director of the recovery effort, told reporters sonar searches have turned up 590 contacts in a 1,166 square kilometres area off the coast of Cape Canaveral.

Of that number, Col. O'Connor said 101 have been investigated and 30 found to contain shuttle wreckage.

He said recovery of the right booster rocket — the prime suspect in the disaster — remained the top priority of the salvage operation.

The 30-metre long rocket was believed to have broken into four or five large chunks and numerous smaller pieces after it fell into the Atlantic from an altitude of nine miles.

"We hope to get the particular segment of the right hand solid booster that is in question," Col. O'Connor said.

In Houston, Richard Truly, NASA's associate administrator for space flight, said that when the agency resumes shuttle launches, the first flight will be a full-scale, satellite-deploying mission performed "under very conservative and safe ground rules."

As a result of the Challenger disaster "we have lost some of our perceived credibility, and we must gain that back," he told a press conference after addressing NASA employees at the Johnson Space Centre.

Mr. Truly said the agency's proposed schedule of nine flights in the first year beginning Feb. 5, 1987 represents only a guideline for budgetary planning.

It is subject to the time needed to make changes in the space programme's procedures and management structure as well as to redesign the solid rocket booster joints on the vehicles, he explained.

Mr. Truly said NASA is in the process of assigning priorities to the backlog of satellites and other payloads that will have accumulated by the time flights resume.

Defence Department payloads and a tracking and data relay satellite similar to the one lost with the Challenger will be among the earliest cargoes, he added.

The shuttle will remain competitive in the world market for commercial launches, he said.



Stark wins damages from Penthouse

LONDON (R) — Koo Stark, a former girlfriend of Britain's Prince Andrew, has won substantial but undisclosed damages over an article about her sex life published in Penthouse magazine, her lawyer said.

Lawyer Desmond Browne told a high court judge that the article, which appeared in 1984, had wrongly claimed to be a recent interview given by Stark but was in fact based on a conversation that took place seven years earlier.

"Since the contents of Penthouse are best described as sexually explicit and since it is notorious what large sums are paid by the press for exclusive interviews, she was naturally concerned that it would be thought by the public that she had sold her story for money," he said.

Signtline Publications, the publishers of Penthouse, and writer James Ashwood had agreed to pay substantial damages over the story, entitled Koo Stark Exclusive: Sex Star Tells, he said. Stark's relationship with Prince Andrew, who is due to marry Sarah Ferguson in July, ended after it became known she had appeared in a soft pornography film.

Psychic sues for 'loss of powers'

PHILADELPHIA (R) — A psychic who claims she lost her paranormal powers as a result of medical treatment for brain tumours has sued a doctor and a hospital here for \$2 million.

Judith Richardson Haines, 42, said in court she once earned \$50,000 a year from private consultations — until she was injected 10 years ago with a dye for a cat scan at Temple University Hospital. Haines testified that Dr. Judith Hart ignored a warning that Haines had reacted adversely to dye injections for earlier X-rays.

Richard Galli, the hospital's lawyer, conceded the patient had had an adverse reaction to the dye in October 1976, but denied that the loss of her "alleged powers" was worth compensation.

Raymond Schellhammer, a retired New Jersey detective, testified that Haines had assisted him in the investigation of the murder of another policeman.

Tougher penalties planned for pimps, brothel operators

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand plans tougher penalties against pimps and brothel operators but prostitutes — and their clients — will escape relatively lightly. A draft bill submitted to parliament by the cabinet raised the maximum penalty for brothel operators to seven years in jail and a 42,000-baht (\$1,600) fine instead of three years and 30,000-baht (\$1,100).

Pimps face a maximum sentence of five years and a 30,000-baht fine compared with the present penalty of three months and 1,000-baht (\$37) fine. The bill said many women were forced into prostitution by economic necessity and they should be treated leniently. It recommended maintaining the existing penalty of up to three months in jail or a 1,500-baht (\$55) fine for prostitutes and their clients.

A feminist group estimates there are up to 700,000 prostitutes in Thailand, many of whom are held as virtual slaves in brothels and tea-houses.

Art auction to raise funds for Africa

NEW YORK (R) — A pregnant Arabian mare, a decorated van, photographs and contemporary paintings will be sold at Art Aid, an auction which aims to raise half a million dollars for starving Africans.

The auction will be held by the Live Aid Foundation, which staged concerts in London and Philadelphia last July to raise millions of dollars for famine relief.

Among the 60 items being auctioned is Annie Leibovitz's striking photograph of the late John Lennon, lying nude on his wife Yoko Ono, who is clothed. The Arabian mare, Aliana, is in foal to strike, the 1985 U.S. National Champion Arabian stallion, which has been syndicated for \$13 million.

Isaac Tigrett, owner of Manhattan's Hard Rock Cafe, where the event will be held, is credited with coming up with the idea of the auction. Sotheby's Auction House estimated the event would raise at least half a million dollars for Africans facing starvation because of a long drought.

Prospective bidders will pay \$150 each to attend the auction, presided over by Sotheby's Chairman John Marion.

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